

Mary Ella Somers Diary 1917

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CALENDAR-1917																												
JANUARY.														JULY.														
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JUNE.														DECEMBER.														
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31 DAYS **JANUARY, 1917** Sunday

M. E. Somers, 1917

Went up to the Doctor's **Monday**
morning. fee advanced 24 to
Office / came down in the afternoon
New Year's Day *we called on Ida*

A beautiful day **Tuesday**
thermometer 53 in 2 the
afternoon **2**

cloudy most **Wednesday**
of the day **3**

Mary washed for me **Thursday**
clothes did not dry
good **4**

Rained all day. **Friday**
Edmond was sick stayed
home from school **5**

Went up to **Saturday**
Pleasantville today **6**
Epiphany



Olive, Lizzie and Louie Price
 [a.k.a. "the girls", sisters, aunts, -
 they live "up home"] & Mary Ella Somers



Lewis E Somers
 [a.k.a. L.E. and Lew]

Mary Ella Somers Diary

1917

January

1 - Went to the Doctors this morning. Fee advanced to 25 cts. Ollie came down in the after noon. We called on Ida.

2 - A beautiful day. Thermometer 55 in the afternoon.

3 - Cloudy most of the day.

4 - Mary washed for me. Doctor did nothing good.

5 - Rained all day. Edmond was sick stayed home from school.

6 - Went up to Pleasantville today.

7 - We visited the Frambes girls today. Stayed to supper.

8 - Took my D.A.R. application up to notary at Pleasantville.

9 - Phebe R. Smith and Helen spent this eve with me.

10 - We received a letter from uncle Job.

11 - Lew attended Alfred S. Scull's funeral. We did at Snug Harbor.

12 - Thermometer stood at 7 A.M.

13 - Lew and W.R. Smith celebrated their birthday this eve. We had ice cream cake and fruit. Went to see Doctor.

14 - Wrote a letter to Mrs Van Gilder.

15 - Was over to see R.J. Smith and Emily. They are sick with the grip.

16 - Lew went over to Atlantic City.

17 - Harry Camp came over and stayed to supper.

18 - I stayed with the children while Ed and Marie went up to Central to potpie supper.

19 - Ida Barrett washed for me.

20 - Partly cloudy today.

21 - Hattie Frambes was here this afternoon.

22 - Cleared off. Cool this eve.

23 - This was a fine day Ther 46 in afternoon.

24 - I got 50c per doz for eggs today.

25 - Went up home this afternoon.

26 - Worked hard all day.

27 - Went up to see Doc. And from there Edmond and I went to Atlantic City. I bought him an overcoat.

28 - This was a fine day Ther 42 at 5 P.M.

29 - Went over to Ida's for a little while. It rained in the afternoon.

30 - Another lovely day Ther 43. Mr McKeay spent the evening with us,

31 - Went up to uncle Martin's this afternoon.

Mary Ella Somers Diary

1917

February

- 1 - Ida Barrett washed for me today.
- 2 - Went Arthur Clayton's funeral today, was buried in Seaside Cemetery. Ther 7.
- 3 - This was a cold day. Ther down to five this A.M. Rec'd a letter from Uncle Job.
- 4 - Ollie very sick muscular rheumatism.
- 5 - Ollie better today. I was up home. Ther 5.
- 6 - Went up to the Doctor's. Ollie better. Ther 10.
- 7 - Aunt Rebecca and Julie spent the day with me.
- 8 - Uncle Japhet died last night. He was at Pollies.
- 9 - Amelia Smith called on me today.
- 10 - Went to Uncle Japhet's funeral. Lottie Moore was there. She is 90 years old. Seems like 75.
- 11 - Clear and cold.
- 12 - Took Ed's auto to serve mail with ours wouldn't run. Ther 3 above zero.
- 13 - Ther 3 below zero. Had Steven called today.
- 14 - Ida washed for me today.
- 15 - Rained and snowed all day.
- 16 - Mrs. Hays came for eggs.
- 17 - This as been a fine day. Went up to the Doctors.
- 18 - Went up home this afternoon.
- 19 - Bought my blue coat. Louie went with me.
- 20 - Another rainy day.
- 21 - Clement Smith was here today. Eggs 50c doz. A fine day.
- 22 - Ida's mother came down yesterday. Snowed last night.
- 23 - Raining again this evening. Mrs Hays here for eggs.
- 24 - Ida is better today. Doctor thinks crisis has passed.
- 25 - Went up to home. Ollie does improve very fast.
- 26 - Went up to the Doctors. Rec'd a letter from Uncle Job. Cloudy all day.
- 27 - Rained today. Edmond turned the washer for me. Ida couldn't wash this week.
- 28 - Either rain or snow all day. A rough month.

Mary Ella Somers Diary

1917

March

- 1 - Rained or snowed all day. I saw a few stars tonight.
- 2 - Rain and snow.
- 3 - More rain. I'm some discourager with the weather.
- 4 - Still raining no let up.
- 5 - Imagination today with no prospect of clearing off, raining hard. Cleared off this P.M.
- 6 - Clear and cold. Mr. McKeag spent this eve with us. A letter from Emma.
- 7 - Geese flying north today. Aunt Lottie and I spent this afternoon at Atl City.
- 8 - Rained this A.M. cleared at 2 P.M.
- 9 - Mrs Hays here today, took 8 doz eggs. My D.A.R. letter came this A.M.
- 10 - Went up to the Doctors this A.M. We got a new Automobile today. A Maxwell.
- 11 - Heard frogs singing tonight. The first time this year. Ther 60
- 12 - C.L.Smith here for eggs.
- 13 - Ban and Helen were here this afternoon. Mrs Fitton spent the eve with us.
- 14 - Rained all day.
- 15 - Lew went over to Atlantic City this P.M.
- 16 - Lew and I went over to Atlantic City in the machine this P.M.
- 17 - Raining today. St Patricks. Mrs Hay came for eggs.
- 18 - Went up to see Rich Price this P.M. rode up in the auto.
- 19 - Went up to the Doc's today. Lew and I spent this eve at Fittons.
- 20 - Helen, Ban and Mrs McKeag spent this eve with us. (Ed elected trustee)
- 21 - Viola very sick. Rained all day. C.L. Smith came for eggs, 15 doz
- 22 - Mrs Fitton called this afternoon.
- 23 - Wesley Helen and Phebe spent this eve with us. Raining tonight.
- 24 - Went over to Atl City with Ed & Marie this P.M. Went in their machine. Rained this P.M.
- 25 - We took a ride own to Longport this P.M. Louie went with us. Called at Boltens.
- 26 - This is a fine day. Mrs Fitton called this morning.
- 27 - Rained hard all day.
- 28 - Helen and May were here this eve.
- 29 - Went to the Doctors. Helen and I went over to Atlantic City today, got home a 3 P.M. Rachel Wood rode over the car with me.
- 30 - Clement Smith came for eggs today. Sold 14 1/3 doz at 34c per doz.
- 31 - Mrs Hays here today. Took 8 doz eggs at 38c per doz.

Mary Ella Somers Diary

1917

April

1 - A lovely day. Ther 80 at 1 P.M.
Hattie came again today.

2 - Cleaned the kitchen cupboard today.
Mrs Williams will help tomorrow.

3 - Rained and hailed this A.M.

4 - Lew, Katherine and I went over to
Atlantic City in the auto this P.M.

5 - Rained today.

6 - I sent money order for D.A.R. pin
this morning. Had eleven callers today.

7 - Finished cleaning the kitchen today.

8 - Lou Robinson spent the day with me.

9 - Snow 5 or 6 inches deep on the level
this A.M.

10 - Ther 24 this A.M. Went up to the
Doctors.

11 - Cleaned the big room upstairs. Mrs
Williams helped me.

12 - This was a nice day. Corn is \$3.45
for a two bu sack.

13 - Rained all day.

14 - Ther 27. thick ice. Hays last trip
there going back to Pittsburg the 17.

15 - We stayed home all day.

16 - Mrs Williams helped me clean
upstairs.

17 - Mrs Williams helped me clean again
today.

18 - Lew, Marie, Kathryn and I took a
ride over to Atlantic City this P.M.

19 - Went up to the Doctors.

20 - Finished cleaning sitting room.

21 - Lew, Edmond and I went over to A
City this P.M. in the machine. Ed came
home from Perth Amboy.

22 - Lew, Ollie, and I went up to Mays
Landing to see Pearl this P.M.

23 - Washing done today.

24 - Have been ironing. Ban and Helen
spent the eve here.

25 - Planted tomato seed today.
(Ponderosa) Have them in the kitchen.

26 - It rained all day.

27 - This was a lovely day.

28 - Lew and I went to Pleasantville this
P.M.

29 - Flag raising at the church today. We
were there.

30 - This was a fine day.

Mary Ella Somers Diary

1917

May

1 - Tomato plants coming up today (Ponderosa)

2 - Took the dahlias out of the cellar today, not many sprouted.

3 - Went up to the Dr this A.M. Lew and I spent the eve at Lew Steelmans. Had a great eve.

4 - Ther 35 this A.M frost in some places.

5 - Attended the D.A.R. meeting. 165 lunched at the hotel Chelsea. I was well pleased with the affair.

6 - Took Will Leer and Sophie up to Zion Cemetery with us. To see Alfred's monument.

7 - Sols 33 doz eggs today to C.L.Smith at 38 per doz. Mrs Miniuck found dead from gas.

8 - Rained all day. Ther 3 above freezing.

9 - Had a thunder shower today.

10 - Was at the Doctors this A.M. I spent this eve at Corson's.

11 - Lew and I went over to Atl City this P.M. in the machine.

12 - Planted pansy seed.

13 - Hattie and Sallie were here today. We took them up to (??) Boice's

14 - It seems more like summer time today.

15 - Went up to Idlewood P.O. and got a pig. Bought it of Mr. Clear.

16 - This was a fine day.

17 - I am 61 years old today and cleaned the parlor, didn't finish it.

18 - We went over to Atl City this P.M. Mrs Williams cleaned cellar this P.M.

19 - Marie and children went to the circus.

20 - Mrs Corson and Este spent the afternoon with us. Terrible wind and rain storm this afternoon.

21 - Had washing done today.

22 - I've been ironing today.

23 - Went up to see Sarah Risley.

24 - Was at the Doctors today.

25 - Went to the hotel Sothern to see the Counterpanes and samples on display.

26 - A windy day.

27 - Took Lee and Julia out for an auto ride.

28 - Our 38th wedding anniversary.

29 - Perl, Bess, and Amelia Smith were here to see us today.

30 - Decoration day. We took Ollie and Lizzie over to Zion and from there we went to Pleasantville Cemetery.

31 - I was at Atlantic City a little while today, went to pay Assoc. dues.

Mary Ella Somers Diary

1917

June

1 - I have 110 eggs put away in water glass.

2 - Went up to the Doctors this morning. Have set out 47 dahlias.

3 - Took Lizzie and Louie for a ride. Went up the Fire road to Farmington.

4 - Mrs Gerard and Este spent this eve with us.

5 - We had a thunder shower tonight.

6 - Another thunder shower this eve.

7 - Thunder showers today, two severe ones.

8 - Weather warm and muggy.

9 - Applied for Liberty Bonds today. This was Ed's birthday 35 years old.

10 - Was up home a little while this P.M.

11 - Stayed at Winfields all night.

12 - Picked strawberries today.

13 - Ban and Helen were here this eve.

14 - Thunder shower again today. It is raining tonight.

15 - We are having the front porch repaired.

16 - Went up to the Doctors. Lew got his new suit from the tailors today. It fits -

him nice. We took Ollie for a ride to Atl City.

17 - We went up to see Pearl this afternoon. Louie went with us.

18 - Lizzie Lee called on us today. Sold 12 doz eggs at 42c.

19 - Plant early beet seed for late beets about July 5th.

20 - Mrs Fitton and Hattie Frambes were here today.

21 - Edmond and I worked up in the attic.

22 - Mended today.

23 - We went up to Pleasantville, took Edmond and Paul. Ed and Franks folks have gone to Phila in the machine.

24 - Went out for a short ride.

25 - Done a little of everything today.

26 - Helped celebrate Mrs Fittons birthday We had a fine time.

27 - Sewed today

28 - Edmond and I spent part of the day at Joe Gaskills

29 - Nannette and Mrs Stetser were here today.

30 - This was a nice cool day.

Mary Ella Somers Diary

1917

July

- 1 - We rode to Longport today. Took Sallie and Viola with us.
- 2 - Mended and picked raspberries.
- 3 - I sewed. It rained today.
- 4 - We went to Tuckahoe Ollie, Lizzie and Paul went with us.
- 5 - Washing done today
- 6 - This was a hot day. I ironed this morning.
- 7 - Went up to the Doctors this A.M.
- 8 - Wrote a letter to Mrs Vansgilder. Took a short ride today.
- 9 - Have been ironing, Louie picked 15 quarts of blackberries.
- 10 - Heavy thunder shower tonight.
- 11 - Rained today. Have been making raspberry jelly.
- 12 - Thunder showers again tonight. Rec'd years interest from Junior \$18.00
- 13 - I made raspberry jelly today. Thunder shower again tonight.
- 14 - Thunder shower tonight, rained hard. Lew and Ed went up to the Odd Fellows tonight.
- 15 - We took a ride up to Leeds Point this afternoon. Ollie and Lizzie went with us.
- 16 - Raining again this evening. Louie got 15 boxes of blackberries today.
- 17 - Our cat was killed last night. We think a dog did it.
- 18 - We went to Longport for a ride this eve. Rain tonight.
- 19 - Canned blackberries today. It rained again tonight.
- 20 - Been canning today. Rained tonight.
- 21 - Winfield drafted yesterday
- 22 - I went up to Chestnut Neck today with Ed.
- 23 - Louie picked 10 quarts of raspberries today.
- 24 - This was a very warm day.
- 25 - Smith came for eggs had $7\frac{1}{2}$ doz for him.
- 26 - Louie and I went over top Atlantic City.
- 27 - Hottest day this year.
- 28 - Went up to see the Doctor
- 29 - Went up to Aaron Smiths
- 30 - Had washing done today. A very warm day.
- 31 - Continued heat 101 in Phila.

Mary Ella Somers Diary

1917

August

1 - Hottest day yet. We went over to Atl City with Fittons.

2 - Hot today

3 - Cooler today, rained a little. Ed came home sick with symptoms of (typhoid??)

4 - Josie came down today

5 - We took Josie down to Longport

6 - The fever left Ed today. Dr says it is not typhoid.

7 - Ella J sewed for me.

8 - Organized the Navy League. Mrs Dewey was there.

9 - It has been a warm day.

10 - Preserved plums today. Mrs Fitton gave them to me.

11 - Went up to see the Doctor.

12 - Called on Mrs Pfouts this eve...

13 - Washing done this day.

14 - We went over to Atlantic C this P.M. in machine. Mr & Mrs ONeal called this eve.

15 - Navy League meeting held at the church.

16 - A hot day

17 - We had two hours rain this P.M. after 5 weeks of drought.

18 - Uncle Job and Sam Smith both arrived here tonight.

19 - took uncle Job to Longport this P.M.

20 - Uncle Job is still here.

21 - Took Uncle over to Charlies. We took auntie Shick down to see her mothers grave.

22 - Went up to the Navy League.

23 - Sewed today.

24 - Wrote a letter to Mrs Vangilder, also one to Cora.

25 - We killed our first young chicken today, for dinner tomorrow.

26 - Took Winfield and Ollie out for a ride.

27 - Have been ironing.

28 - Mending and darning today.

29 - Went up to the Doctors. Mrs Dewey was at the Navy League today.

30 - I arrived at Bristol at 5:30

31 - We picked elderberries this A.M. And went overt to Burlington this afternoon.

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1917

September

1 - Rained all day. Mrs Albertson came up this A.M.

2 - Took a walk this eve

3 - This is Labor Day. We went up to Trenton on the boat.

4 - Went p to Trenton by trolley. Edmond went home this P.M.

5 - Cora and I made jelly. We went to Burlington this P.M.

6 - We canned tomatoes and went over to Burlington this eve.

7 - Went to Phila Cora went with me.

8 - The drafted boys had a parade today. It was a sad affair to me.

9 - Went to Merchantville today had a fine time.

10 - Came back to Bristol via Phila

11 - Heavy frost in Bristol this morning. Arrived home at 5 P.M.

12 - Been cleaning ever since I arrived home.

13 - Am still trying to get things straightened out.

14 - Lew bought a basket of peaches for me 40c per basket, small ones.

15 - Have been preserving peaches today.

16 - Called at Uncle Martin's. He is not very well.

17 - Mrs Pfouts called this afternoon.

18 - I ironed, and then went over to Atlantic City with Lew in the auto.

19 - Canned peaches today.

20 - Was over at Corsons for a little while. Rec'd \$18.00 Int due from Jr on A.M.

21 - Heavy thunder shower tonight, put Mrs Pfouts lights out, broke the bulbs.

22 - Bought a basket of peaches today 80c. Josie Rockelmann came to Ed's today for 2 months.

23 - Took a ride up to Bakersville, Gov inspector getting signers for extended mail route.

24 - Canned peaches.

25 - Spent this afternoon with Eva Steelman. We made a comfort bag.

26 - Wrote to Cora and went up to the League.

27 - Canned peaches.

28 - Canned tomatoes and made jelly today.

29 - My dahlias are blooming beautifully. No frost yet.

30 - Wrote a letter to Mrs Vangilder. We rode over to Longport and came home by Atlantic City.

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October

- 1 - Went at the church cut out 26 Christmas bags. Name of the League changed.
- 2 - Ironed today.
- 3 - Have been ironing
- 4 - Went up to the Doctors. Julia and Lee came down today.
- 5 - May Babcock and Mrs Dickenson called today. We had a heavy thunder shower tonight.
- 6 - Worked hard all day.
- 7 - We has frost last night did not hurt my flowers.
- 8 - Eva and Addie spent this afternoon with me.
- 9 - Word came today that the 50 mile R.F.D. route would go into effect the 16
- 10 - rained
- 11 - Rained part of the day. Finished a dressing sacque.
- 12 - It rained hard again tonight.
- 13 - Killing frost last night, potato vines black. P.S. Dahlias and potatoes not hurt by frost.
- 14 - Ban, Helen and Mrs McKeag spent the evening with us.
- 15 - Lew made last trip today on mail route.
- 16 - Lew went over the route with Rogers.

- 17 - Lew gone with Rogers today.
- 18 - Put sweet potatoes away today. Mrs Pfouts called this P.M.
- 19 - John Sutton died suddenly today.
- 20 - Lew went with Rogers this P.M. They got home earlier today.
- 21 - I saw Mary Collins today, she was at her mothers.
- 22 - Lew went with Rogers today.
- 23 - Lew went over the route with Rogers again today.
- 24 - Lew and I went over to Atlantic City this P.M.
- 25 - Helen and Ban spent this eve with us.
- 26 - Heavy Frost this A.M. but did not hurt anything.
- 27 - Heavy thunder showers tonight. It was warm today. I cut a lovely bouquet of dahlias
- 28 - We went up to see Pearl this afternoon.
- 29 - Washing done. Lew helped me with the washer.
- 30 - Wrote to Mrs Van G. Stormed hard all day. Lew has gone to a movie this P.M.
- 31 - Heavy ice this A.M. Cleaned up my dahlias. Ther 24. Went up to the Navy League.

Mary Ella Somers Diary

1917

November

- 1 - Mr Williams was struck by trolley today.
- 2 - Mrs Pfouts spent the eve with us.
- 3 - Lew finished digging white potatoes. Had 25 baskets of red skins.
- 4 - We took a short ride today. Wrote a letter to Cora this P.M.
- 5 - We went to Pleasantville this afternoon. Ordered coal from Clark at Pville
- 6 - Put the sitting room stove up today. The coal came today.
- 7 - We attended the Edison Musical at the Armory this eve. Tickets were given to us.
- 8 - Went up to the Doctors.
- 9 - Sewed today.
- 10 - Lew has gone up to the Odd Fellows Lodge. (Have eats tonight.)
- 11 - We took Ollie out for a ride, went up to Seaview golf grounds.
- 12 - Maggie and Carrie were here for supper.
- 13 - Rec'd a post card from Frank Clerony He is in France. Lew gone to the Grange.
- 14 - We went over to Atl City via Longport.
- 15 - Crampy all day. No dinner two days this week.
- 16 - Ida and May McGowan called.
- 17 - Preserved citron. Worked hard all day. (tired out) Lew gone to the Lodge.
- 18 - Ollie came down this A.M. We took a ride this P.M.
- 19 - Cut out a dress for myself. I wonder how long it will be before I get it finished.
- 20 - Went up to the Doctors this A.M. Spent this eve with Fittons. Mr Kulp called today.
- 21 - F.A. Baker, Lettie, Ollie and Lizzie were here to supper. I was crampy all day. Two meals conserved.
- 22 - Have been sweeping up stairs today.
- 23 - Ed paid 2.20 on oil Bal due 5.80
- 24 - Mark is home from gunning cruise, brought Ed a pair of black ducks and a basket of oysters.
- 25 - Hattie was here today. Went up home this afternoon. Winfield was there.
- 26 - We washed today. It was cold. Ther down to 18.
- 27 - Cold this morning. Ther was down to 12
- 28 - Our first snow fell last night, 1 inch. I have been up to the Doctors today.
- 29 - Took a ride up to Mays Landing.
- 30 - Mrs Vangilder came to day. Lew is working for Sharrock.

Mary Ella Somers Diary

1917

December

- 1 - Mrs Vangilder and I went over to Atlantic City this P.M. got home a 11 o'clock.
- 2 - Mrs Vangilder went away this afternoon.
- 3 - Lew went up to court this A.M. But was excused.
- 4 - I had severe cramps this A.M. and again tonight but not so bad.
- 5 - Lew working for Ed on the doughty bungalow. Clement here for eggs, had 3 doz, 60c doz
- 6 - Lew went up to Court this A.M. But was excused until next week.
- 7 - Wes, Ban and Helen were here this eve until 10 o'clock.
- 8 - Have been up to the Doctors. Can buy only 1 lb of sugar and 2 cans of milk today. A terrible S.E. storm blowed Ed's hen roost over. An auto accident on the boulevard.
- 9 - This has been a cold day. Ther 21
- 10 - Snowed last night about 2 inches. Ther 12 this A.M.
- 11 - Ther 7 this A.M. nice clear day.
- 12 - Snowing commenced sometime last night. Lew has gone to court this A.M. was excused.
- 13 - Lew went to court this A.M. was excused.
- 14 - Lew went to court again today. (excused)
- 15 - Rogers gave Lew a check today. Amt 11.25
- 16 - Went up home this P.M. Lew and I spent the eve at Wes Smiths.
- 17 - A light snow fell last night. Lew went up to court this A.M. excused gain till Wed.
- 18 - We went over to Atl City to fix up my Liberty Bonds. Went to a movie.
- 19 - Lew went to Court today and was on the jury. We sent a box of sweets to Mrs Dewey.
- 20 - This has been a fine day.
- 21 - Another nice day. Ther 56 this afternoon.
- 22 - Went up to the Dr. this A.M. Clement here for eggs had 4 doz.
- 23 - Took Christmas presents up home today. Aunt Rebecca came there this evening.
- 24 - We washed and I made a mince pie.
- 25 - We ate dinner alone. We ate dinner alone. We were invited over to see Mrs Pfont's Christmas tree.
- 26 - Ironed today.
- 27 - Emmie & Mrs Lloyd came today.
- 28 - Emmie went over to Sallie Scull's this afternoon.
- 29 - Ther down to 8 this A.M.
- 30 - Ther 7 below zero at 7 A.M. We spent the eve at Wes Smiths.
- 31 - The same as yesterday. I look and feel almost as old as Father time. But am thankful I'm as good as I am.