

Copied from

**Dorman B. E. Kent (1875-1951) Papers,
bef. 1800-1951 (bulk 1886-1951)
Doc 235**



**Leahy Library
Vermont Historical Society
60 Washington Street
Barre, Vermont 05641**

802-479-8509
library@vermonthistory.org

www.vermonthistory.org
catalog.vermonthistory.org

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 1918

Up at 7.00. Had a fine night's rest last night.
At work at 8.15 a very rainy morning. Mailed
the Argus clippings & a long letter to Fred.
Forenoon & part of afternoon on a table showing what
\$1.00 of premium would buy at all ages from 20 to
65 & also how much more insurance can be bought
for the premiums per \$1.000 at upper ages, or lower
ages. Got collection cards this morning for our
watched & got money today from Vidal, Field, Eelan
& Alene.

Home at 4.30 & went down with Agnes & looked
over Grandfield tenement. Mrs Doyle spent whole
day cleaning there. Gen Putnam is going to get
4 girls for 6 mos work & I spoke to him tonight
about Ethel Cowley. He told me to get hold of her
as I phoned her & she will see him tomorrow.

After supper took over some films to Agnes to develop
& brought home some finished ones. Bill Poole moved
out of his house prior to its sale on a mortgage &
I told Wetmore folks of 2 cellar lights burning
in it. Read & popped corn & retired at 9.45
Tom Kane over all the evening studying Latin &
Algebra with Bennett.

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 1918

All day at work. Whole time put in figuring the
annual assessments in 1917 of 58 leading
assessment cos of the country.

Vidal sitting around doing nothing as usual.
Visited awhile with Ned & Clarence about the
new rate book for ages under 20 & old style
endowments. I am to read the proof as usual.
Home at 4.30. Rained hard all day up to then.
After supper went downtown & took C.V. train at
the Wells River station & went to Barre. Rained
about till 7.30 when I came down on the
trolley. Went to the Playhouse & saw *Within the
Cups*. Didn't like it. Home & bed at 11.00
Miss Richard Standish & Peter Allen are very ill
with pneumonia & Ted Sloan is sick unto death
on Court street with typhoid.

Mrs Richard H Standish died tonight of pneumonia
at 10.05. Her name was Ella Dorman & she
was born in 1873 & married in 1897.

Thursday, Sept. 19, 1918

+

All day in the office. Developed the insurance less assets of 53 assessment companies & then figured how long it would take for them to discharge their obligations on the basis of their incomes in 1917.

Home at 4.20 & went over to Ayers & got some pictures. Stopped at the garden, picked the ripe tomatoes & got a lot of string beans.

After supper the boys & I went over & picked a lot more string beans, 12 ears of Golden Bantam corn & dug 5 hills of potatoes.

Eitel & Walter Edwards came over to call just as I got home & staid till 9.00. I gave her one of the pictures Eitel Cowley took of Fred & Via Richards in June.

Retired at prompt 9.00. Spanish influenza is said to be breaking out in town.

Caliste L Desautels died today of cancer at 127. He was 18 years old. Had lived here since 1857 & in the same house over 50 years.

He used to care for the Cross property & looked after Mrs Phinney's premises.

Friday, Sept. 20, 1918

All day in the office. Forenoon passed in copying up work of yesterday for the printer.

After dinner Clarence called me in & showed me the copy of the new rates & values for ages 15-16-17-18-19 & suggested I make an index. I looked the work over & decided he had made an error in the arrangement. Made up charming sheets the way I thought they should go & Ned agreed with me. Took it up with C.E. at 3.30 & he finally did also so I have got a pasting job.

Home at 4.30. On way down in morning stopped at Historical Society & wrote a letter to Mrs McClellan of Royaltan concerning some rebel flags she had. Fremont Fay of Barre called at 5.00 & I hired him to paper the rooms in the tenement.

Agnes went over to Martha Smiths where a farewell supper is being given Edith Blanchard who leaves for France tomorrow.

I went to Barre on the 6.00 o'clock car. Got hair cut up there & arrived back at 8.45. Went to Playhouse and till then up to the club & home at mid night. Rained more or less all day & night.

+
Saturday, Sept. 21, 1918

Forenoon in the office. Vidals got a job Field sent up a request asking him to make a digest of the standing of the Manhattan.

I finished the sheets showing assessment & standings of fraternal societies

Home at 12.30 ate read paper & laid down in parlor & slept from 1.30 to 3.00.

Then went over to garden got carrots, beets turnips & cauliflower & took them over to Etzel.

Left wheelbarrow as it was raining. Came home & looked over books in closet until 5.30 they repaired the fence & walls on Kent St to day & we got some boards for fuel.

After supper we all five went to the Play house & saw Joan of the hills. Very fine I thought but Agnes & Kate didn't like it.

Stopped in at Self Hunt's auction a few minutes on way home & retired at 10.00

Sunday, Sept. 22, 1918

Up at 8.30 after breakfast looked over a lot of old films picking out the ones with Mabel on them. Took them over to Ayers to develop. Bennett & Rich went over with me & we picked a lot of shell beans for dinner. Went along down town calling on Etzel. Got both my cameras loaded at Blakely's bought paper & came home see Etzel's bringing the wheelbarrow.

After dinner we went to the garden & picked two wheelbarrows full of green tomatoes & cucumbers. Went back & got corn string beans & more cucumbers which we took down to Etzel. Had supper on dining room table for the first time on a Sunday night for ages. Did not go to Edwards in evening as they were invited to the Hopkins.

Popped corn read paper & looked over a lot of old papers with an idea of getting as near a collection as possible of Vermont Governors. Found I have at least 24.

Abed at 10.00 Very cold night.

Monday, Sept. 23, 1918

All day in the office. Neil went to Rutland to spend the day. I worked getting together data for the Messenger & rearranging the values under 20 to cut & paste. Howard is working on a sketch showing standing of the Manhattan.

On way back to work at 1.00 I got the other 2 pieces of crochery I bought at the store house & took them to the office & put them on my desk.

Left at 2.55 & went to 1st National Bank where Estes, Harrobee, Ailans, Mitchell, Eaton, Corry & myself met & talked over the lack of doctors in town. Only 9 are left out of 14 & there is an awful lot of sickness in town.

Home at 5.30. Agnes went downtown in P.M. & ordered paper for tenement of Taylor.

After supper took 6.30 car to Barre. Bought an umbrella as it rained, & also got me a new fall hat for \$2.00. Got back to town at

9.00 Paid Bill Fisher \$1.75 for putting glass in the picture. The Last Prayer in Congress.

Went to the Club at 9.30 & staid till 11.00 & then came home.

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1918

Awoke at 7.00 sick, sick sick. Didn't get up or try to. Had a high fever & awful headache every minute all day & was sick to my stomach also. Tried to get Dr. Watson in the morning but he could not come & told us instead what to do. Gressed sheets with inflammation all day & put around throat & chest & held a bottle of hot water at throat most of the time.

Took a scidley powder about 10.00 & threw it up soon so then took two tablespoons of castor oil. Then the movements began & I spent a good part of the time at the seat.

Mattie Watson & Maria White of Lancaster called in the afternoon from 3.00 to 5.15. They evidently expected a bill for supper but they didn't get it.

The schools closed at noon today for a half day. There is a tremendous lot of influenza in town.

James M. English died at 10.00 to night at his father's house on School St after a long illness.

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 1918

Feel better this morning but as the fever has not left me I must spend the day in bed. Started reading today & read about two-thirds of the history of King Philip's war & several chapters in a book called In Old Connecticut some of which I had read before.

Agnes went down town in P. M. to buy some paper for the parlor & dining room at the tenement. While she was gone I went down stairs twice to answer the phone. Once it was Field inquiring how I was & the other time it was Aunt Laura at the Mountzchen Home informing us she was leaving for New York at midnight.

I passed a somewhat restless night last night & at 9.00 all retired tonight.

Peter Allen a painter & slater died at noon today at Heaton Hospital of pneumonia.

He was born in Chicago in 1865 & had lived here 11 years.

Green Day of Barre commenced this morning to paper the tenement.

Thursday, Sept. 26, 1918

Another whole day in bed with influenza. Began raining soon after midnight & poured all night & every minute all day & rained into the night. The paper says there are six or eight hundred cases of grip in town & five doctors are sick. I think my temperature left me during the day.

Read King Philip's war all the forenoon, finishing the book. Read history of Royalton in afternoon & evening. Agnes shaved me in bed after dinner. Kate & the boys went to school in the morning but came home in the middle of the forenoon & the paper says tonight there will be no school till Monday.

Agnes phoned Ned in the afternoon & he told her to tell me to keep in just as long as it seemed necessary.

Friday, Sept. 27, 1918

Again another day in bed with grip. About 4.00 Rich had an awful night more & Agnes went in & quieted him & slept there the rest of the night. She called up Dr Colton at 7.00 & asked him to come. I feel much better today.

Read history of Rye, etc all the forenoon. Colton came at 1.00. Found I had no fever but said I must stay in bed today. He says Rich has influenza good & proper. Read history of Bellows & all the afternoon. Bennett has an awful cold but he went on his paper route as usual. Mrs Doyle spent the day here.

Breakfast, dinner & supper in bed & a good appetite. Agnes sat with me in the evening & went to bed in Bennett's room with Rich at 9.00 & Bennett slept down stairs.

The grip rages in town unabated. Read history of Hartford VT all the evening. Thomas Bridgman's wife aged 81 of Hardwick fell from a scaffold & broke her neck today. She had been out of her head some time.

Her maiden name was Jennie R. Whitehead.

Saturday, Sept. 28, 1918

4 more deaths of grip & pneumonia during the night. I knew but one & that was Andrew Tomasi aged 26 who for many years worked at the fruit store next to Pines restaurant.

I arose at 7.10 feeling 100% better. Shaved cleaned up & had breakfast. Then wrote in diary for three weeks. Then & Fin settled cash, cut Agnes clipping & got "caught up" generally. Then spent a good share of the day looking over letters of famous men & sorting them out. Rich in bed all day & Bennett woke this morning with a high fever as he was in bed all day also. I managed to keep going most of the time & feeling pretty well except I tire easily. Freeman Fay left the papering job at noon, sick with grip, too.

Blanche called me in the evening from Hardwick telling of Mrs Bridgman's death. She says there have been but 3 cases of grip there. Dr Colton came at 8.15. Bennett has 104° of heat.

We all retired at 9.00 Agnes slept on a cot in the boys room with Rich & I slept on a cot in the sewing room looking after Bennett who slept in the down stairs bedroom.

Sunday, Sept. 29, 1918

Up at 7.45. Bennett still has a very high fever. After breakfast I did up chores & took wheelbarrow to garden. Dug 6 hills of potatoes, got 13 ears of corn, some carrots, cauliflower & a few string beans. Went over to Agnes to get pictures but they weren't done. Dr Hunt's car stopped at the garden & I visited an while with Brown about the sick. Kate went down & got the papers.

Dinner at 2.00 & I spent then some time finishing looking over stuff thrown from the dome, for signatures. Had supper at 7.00. Kane came over & I called Mc Guire from 6.00 to 7.30 before I got him. Colton is sick in bed today.

Mc Guire said he would come. He arrived at 9.00. Gave Bennett some medicine & went home. I slept in sewing room again & Agnes in boys room with Rich. He is much better though badly bothered with nose bleed. Bennett's temperature tonight was 105 $\frac{2}{10}$. A bed at 10.30

Mrs Hassie Nichols died this morning at 9.30 terrible

time

Monday, Sept. 30, 1918

Up at 7.00 After breakfast went to work. The streets look deserted. Found all glad to see me at the office. Feel well enough but it's start's kind of slow. Vidall & girl were in a few minutes. Mrs V has been & is very ill indeed. I spent a good share of the day preparing note book with ages under 20. Every body is talking about the grip. I died over Sunday & 4 today. It's awful, awful.

Expected to get paid off tonight but Bean was \$3.00 short when he came to count up so we didn't draw. Went up to the Club at 4.10 a few minutes, then got eggs & 5 lbs of brown sugar & came home. Richard was dressed & up to dinner but he got played out in the afternoon & went to bed again with some temperature. Bennett much better. Popped corn in evening & read & retired at just 10.00

Fay finished papering tomorrow to night.

Tuesday, Oct. 1, 1918

All day in the office. Hanson out today as are just 41 others in the office. I worked some on the rate book under 20 & some on my own jobs. Went over to the library & paid Lillian a few bills & talked it over. Home to dinner via Cts where I took some pictures of her & Mother Edwards. Bennett & Rich are both in bed - as usual.

Geo Putnam came up to our room in P. M. & staid an hour. Vidal is making out his questionnaire & the damn fool never knew how old he was into 2 years until a few days ago. I left at 4.00 & went to the club a few minutes & then to the City Hall then home.

After supper went over to the garden to get some provisions. Left wheelbarrow & carried films over to Ayers & then went down town & went through the War Train at the M & N siding.

Had guns etc captured from German. Got some syrups of Figs at Rivers & came home returning at just 10.00. The sickness is increasing hourly. Awful, awful!

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1918

Up at 7.00 & to work. John Adams phoned down at 10.00 saying he wanted to have me take charge of Ward 2 on the sick census today so I went up to the Club & started in. Phoned an hour, then Coffin took me up to Mills, Hutchinsons & home where I got a rain coat & then over to Ira Richardson's & back to the Club where I ate at 1.00. Henry Farwell had Ward 1, 1. ward 2 Neil Field 3, Geo Putnam 4 Tim Callorhan 5 & Will Stratton ward 6. Didn't get our cards till about 2.30 & then I got my men going. I went with Paul Dillingham to Gallison Hill, Country Club etc. Came back & stopped at Pioneer & started in keeping Coffin & Hayne. Saw some awful cases. We didn't get fire till evening & then Chas Cookson & J C Hutchinson had it reported. Without them which is half of Ward 2 we found 1287 sick in bed & 1076 either ill or recovered. I went at 7.30 to Keaton Hospital after Dr Harkness & then to Pioneer with him. Hayne kept driving. Home at 10.30. Patient H Ryan died at 10.00 tonight & Sarah Dingley died in Boston. 1 in all died in town through this night & over 40 have died in Boise in 3 days. It is awful

Thursday, Oct. 3, 1918

Up at 9.00 Drank 2 or 3 glasses of milk & went down town. Got Heron Hopkins cards & took them back to Larrobes. Cookson & Hutchins on turned them in during forenoon.

I got to the office at 10.15 & spent day pasting values for ages under 20 making copy for rate books. Tidal branch making up his questionnaire. Home to dinner & bath. Left at 3.15 & went up to the Club on hour. Bought 10 tumblers & came home. After supper went over to Dr Colton's & harvested their squashes, pumpkins etc. He is sick in bed. Home & retired at 7.30. Called up Crawford in evening & got him at 8.40. He & Edmund are all alone.

Mrs Clara Meader Mc Goffets died at 11.00 this forenoon. 25 have died in Parre today & the conditions are getting worse all the while. Dr Pease & Dr Beecher came today from Bushington. Terrible times.

Herbert D O'Neil fireman on Mc W died at 1.00 about this morning.

Friday, Oct. 4, 1918

Up at 7.00 Did chores etc & got to work. All day put in on pasting copy for values under 20. Miss Kesin taken sick at home this forenoon & Ned took her to hospital. Home to dinner. Kate left early in Gleasons car for Palmarde on Franklin St where several are ill. In P. M. Atteston called my attention to an error in the book of claims from 1 to 61 years & I got my copy from Vye Smith & found 17 errors. Showed it to Field & left it with Cutler.

Left office at 3.40 & got hair trimmed. Fred Lang took me to a Citrinis at 177 Parre St where I thought I ought to go & watch but Agnes thought different. I went over to L Holdings & split wood for them & over to Huntingtons & told them we would take Glen tomorrow.

Mrs Rolles has double pneumonia. The nurse called us at midnight to know where she could get a Dr. It is thought tonight there are about 1400 cases in town.

Saturday, Oct. 5, 1918

Forenoon in office. Called on Bolles & Spaldings before leaving. Pat Ryan's funeral at 9.15. I ought to have gone but it poured so & my cold was so bad I didn't. Few out, I heard.

Spent forenoon pasting copy for rate book under age 20 finishing the job.

Went to Savings bank at noon & paid interest then got papers & provisions & came home, slept from 1.30 to 2.00 in parlor. Then went over & split wood for Spaldings & called on Bolles. Clarence came on noon train. Glen was at our house till about 4.00

Kate went to the Hospital at 2.00 & washed dishes till 10.30 & then went to the Patroller on Franklin St & worked all day getting home at 6.00. We all retired at 8.40.

It has poured a constant stream all day long. Thunder shower in P.M. 2 cases of diphtheria found in town today & grippe & pneumonia rage unchecked

Sergeant D. Durgin of Lynn Mass died today of pneumonia. A merchant of Beverly & an old flame of Agnes.

Sunday, Oct. 6, 1918

Up at 7.00 Rained a perfect sea from 7.00 to 10.00
Slept up morning shoes & went down town. Stopped at police station a few minutes & then went over to the Relief Committee rooms at the library. Went out with Harry Marston to various places including the Hospital. Home at 1.00 Katherine started in this morning to work at the Spaldings & we had Glen Bolles here all day. Mrs Bolles some better. After dinner went down town. Coffin & I went to a Spaniards house on River St where 2 men had just died. John Stanyan was nurse. We then went to 202 & 204 Barre St where people are awful sick. I got Harry Marston's car & we found Dr Mc Guire at the Pioneer. He went to 202 & 204 Barre.

Then Mr Senter & I went out with food up Berkin side, Barre, Charles & Foster St.

Then Elwyn Kingsbury took me out & I carried one basketful of food way up Northfield St. Kingsbury brought me home at 8.30 & we retired at 9.00

Monday, Oct. 7, 1918

Up at 6.45 Sid chose to go & went to work.
 About 10.00 they phoned me the nurse at the
 Spaldings was leaving & we must look out
 for them. I came up town got the Hospital &
 Dr Mc Guire on the phone & made arrangement
 for Spalding. Then went out with Elwin Kingsbury
 looking for ambulance & found it on Ridge St.
 We (Gilbert & I) brought Spalding downstairs &
 carried him to the hospital I sitting with him.
 Got back down town at 1.00 & soon came home.
 ate & at 2.00 went over to see if Ethel would come
 & help at the Spaldings. Not one thing would she
do, God damn her. The old woman left for
 Mass. last night. I then went to Relief head-
 quarters & H W Kemp & I took food to Summit, St
 Charles St & the Pioneer. Back at 3.30
 came home at 5.00 after buying duck pan.
 Carried over a cot bed to Spaldings. At 9.00
 Bess Kemp Leslie came & spent the night with
 the Spaldings. & Kate came home.
 10 deaths occurred in town from 8.00 P. M. to this
 morning.

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 1918

Lee Parker died during last night at a camp in
 Virginia Hugo H Bertoli 18 yrs old died at 2.30
 this morning. I had him the 2nd helping take
 census of the sick.

Got to work at 6.30 & started in about 10.00 to write
 an article describing the different war risks
 paid by us & kept at it all the remainder of the
 day. Kate all day at the Spaldings. All the
 children ill now. I went up to relief room at
 4.30 & visited with Dr Briggs. He says Lee Parker
 may have typhoid. Home at 5.00 & went over
 & talked with Clarence about her.

After supper Rich & I went over to the garden &
 dug potatoes picked leeks, a few more squashes
 & some carrots. Got some pictures at Ayers
 & came home. Kate got through at the Spaldings
 at 6.30. Alice English came then & staid till
 7.30 when a Mrs Gilbert came.
 We retired at 9.00. A beautiful day.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 1918

Michael Flannery an ex-hister died this morning leaving 9 children. Mrs Hattie Hall who sewed many years for mother died this morning aged 68. She has been in a some time.

I put in full day at office. Wrote some on the war death claims paid & at 10.00 took copy for the Messenger up to Edson who could not do it & I left it at Parkers. Afternoon till 3.30 more or less on same work. On way back to the office I called on Dr Colton who's still in bed. Called at Relief Committee & tried to get a nurse for Spalding's but could not. At 3.30 Kiddler, Shurtleff Connelly & 2 or 3 more, came up & burned up their washing. I got home at 5.30 ate & Rich & I went to the garden & dug about 15 hills more of potatoes. They are rotting some. Called at Stackwells & Parkers a few minutes & then home. We all visited in the kitchen till 9.30 when we retired. Some four or five deaths today, 10 yesterday in Barre & about 10 today. Not as many new cases in either town but not bad enough to know Dr Turner of Worcester died tonight at 11.00

Thursday, Oct. 10, 1918

all day at the office. Forenoon spent on writing descriptions of war losses. Afternoon reading proof on Messenger & kindred work.

Left the office at 3.30. Went to printers got shoes shined, paid for 6 months of the Argus & came home.

Rich & I went over to the garden again after supper & dug about 15 hills of taters. Went over to Ayers & he gave me a picture of the National Life agents. Called on Irwin Hanson & he is better. A bed at 9.00 as usual.

Mrs Ed Holmes was at the Spalding's all day & ate dinner with us. Mrs Place stays there tonight.

Conditions are very much improved all over town. John G. Giney, water commissioner is ill with t. b. & never will get out more

+ Friday, Oct. 11, 1918

Up at 6.30 & got to work at 8.15 Some proof came down this morning & I read it. Got Nye Smith to go to the Capital City Press at 10.30 where he remained the rest of the day working on the Messenger.

All the forenoon spent on finishing the records of policy holders lost in the war which I completed at 2.30 Mrs Ed Holmes at the Spaldings again today & she was here one more to dinner. Went to State House in P. M. & got keys to come.

Ned & I at 3.45 went to Capital City Press & read & re-read the finished proof on the Messenger. Nye will work on it tomorrow. Home at 5.30 & Agnes & Kate were working cleaning up floors in house below. I put the last touches of aluminum paint on the pipes. Rose Lucia came up at 6.00 & got Mrs Holmes. Patricia of Franklin St where Kate worked died this forenoon at 11.30 No one I knew.

59 deaths in Montpelier in 12 days.

+ Saturday, Oct. 12, 1918

Up at 7.00 Mrs Place again here to break fast after breakfast went down to Capital City Press where Nye Smith was working alone making corrections in the Messenger. Got revised proof & came home at 10.00 & went to garden with Rich & Bennett. dug remainder of the potatoes & got the last ripe tomatoes & a cauliflower & came home. Went down town then & got the papers. Dinner at 12.45 then read over the proof again & the boys & I went to the garden & picked the last of the beans. Got Saw hill car down & soon went to the hospital & saw Spalding. He is getting along very nicely. Great excitement (sub-rosa) about the hospital caused by the supposed firing of Miss Crozier the matron on account of rum & dope. Went back down town & got some pop corn at Tomasi's & came home. After supper hunted all over the neighborhood for smoking tobacco & found some at Jay's. We all retired at 9.00 Today is Columbus Day, a legal holiday in Vermont & stores all closed Rena (Guernsey) Davis died in E. Montpelier this afternoon at 2.00 o'clock.

Sunday, Oct. 13, 1918

Arose at 8.30 all of us lay. Did morning chores ate breakfast & at 10.00 took a box case full of books to the State House. At first I put them in the new building & then I went back & carried them up into the dome. Was there till 12.00. Went to Leguins & couldn't get a paper. All sold out at 17.30. I was mad.

Home to dinner & went to State House again at 2.30. Looked over a lot of Gus Smith's old letters. Got a long letter today from Fred in Italy. Telephoned Etel about it from Dwight Dismick's office & came along toward home. Went down & called on Mrs Doyle an hour. Etel & Mother Edwards came over to hear Fred's letter & they staid till 9.00. Raymond Ayers brought over the balance of pictures of Etel & I gave them to her. She paid me \$1.00 for the vegetables she has had from the garden. Went at 9.15. Rained a little today.

Sarah Glade 90 years of age died today at noon. An old invalid born in East Montpelier Center, long a character & merchant in Montpelier.

Monday, Oct. 14, 1918

all day at the office. Final proof came down in forenoon on the August & September Notes. Drew money today from Farwell for my VHS salary & expenses to Oct 1 & deposited same at 1st National. Wrote letters to Rich sending him Mrs Deloney's pictures & to Crawford sending him several snapshots of Mabel Stone & with others.

Home at 5.30 & spent evening here. Gave Kate my old brown hat which she is going to wear. In evening looked over again more autographs. Got them all cleaned up now. Retired at 9.30. Lee Parker buried at Bradford today. Coffin. Dr Fitzgerald & Officer Mitchell went from here.

Moses C Mc Govern died tonight at Springfield Mass. He was the youngest Mc Govern all of whom once lived on Kent St. He was somewhat of a humor. Tried one morning some years ago to make a rail on the Elks, single hauled & Rob Hawkins threw him part of the way toward Stoulls. Rev H. A. Spencer died today in St J obs bury.

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 1918

On this day at 7.00 P.M. I left off the
use of liquor & tobacco entirely
Dorman B & Kent

Arose at 7.20 After breakfast went to the
rent & painted the upstairs hall & the back
bedroom down stairs together with the pantry.
Went down town at 11.20 & got paper. After dinner
I painted the kitchen stairs & the dining room
& finished work at 3.00 The first painting
I ever did. Went down town & saw Carl
Parmenter at the Club showed him the
pictures from Sarah Blade's album
& he knew but one L. O. Churchill the
photographer. Got my hair cut at Critchell's
& came home. Kate washed dishes this
morning at the hospital. Got scared this
morning about my deed from father but found
it O.K. Rena Guernsey buried this P.M.
Clifford Blair ("Maggie's" father) of Ridge St
died this morning at 6.00 o'clock
All at home in evening & retired early

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 1918

Up at 7.30 all day in the office. In forenoon I
worked on little paper for rate book under 20
Went over to the library & showed George Wing
the Sarah Blade pictures & he knew but one of
them. Stopped in at Jo Browns & asked him
to bring "What Vermont has done in the first year
of War" up to date.
On way back after dinner I left an advertisement
for the temperance at the Argus office.
Afternoon spent on various jobs. am just
finishing sending out today the last of Pres
Howland's "yellow ship" Policyholders Campaign
letters. Got a shampoo after work at Hector
Wenards & then took Sarah Blade pictures over to
Charles DeT. Benesoff. He knew a lot of them.
Home to supper at 6.00. Agnes & Kate went to
Barre this afternoon & bought new hats. Kate
went to supper & for an evening party down to the
Huntington House. After supper I went down
to Arthur Farnells at the Kellogg & he knew practically
all the blade pictures. Went over to Wolf Hunt and
hour to the office club till 11.00 then home.

Thursday, Oct. 17, 1918

All day at the office at work at 4.45 & the forenoon spent on various jobs. Subscribed today for a 4th liberty loan of \$50.00 Great excitement about the early night or morning news of the closing of Germany. They haven't fallen yet but they will right soon I reckon. Wrote Yiel Mitchell in the afternoon about his proposed policies. Wrote this morning on the backs of the Sacah black pictures & after work went up to see Levi Bixby's mother about the picture I thought was Dr. Clark. She says it's not. Bought black paint for registers & got home around 6.00 Harrison Lombard phoned me tonight about the rent.

In evening read & sang a lot of songs with Kate & Agnes. Popped some corn & retired about 10.15. Rains hard tonight.

Friday, Oct. 18, 1918

All day in the office. Got a letter in the morning from Crawford in which he told what he wished done if he died, wanted me administrator & guardian etc. A long signature. Called him up at 1.15 & found him feeling better & saying he had sent me a postal saying he was all right. Spent the day putting the finishing touches on the rate book copy for ages before us. It is now wholly completed & awaits only the lettering the job.

Home around 5.45 & dishes go out again. Raid on sofas in the evening & the girls sang & we waited till 10.15 then retired. Charles Fuller got crazy in the small house this morning & drove his wife & Co. to the neighbors. He always was a funny one.

Hector A. Dubois, former coal merchant of Montpelier & now a contractor, a hunch-back, died today in Bridgport, Conn.

Saturday, Oct. 19, 1918

Finished at the office, worked till 10.30 cleaning up my desk. It looks fine now. Covered over small stand at machine with blotter. Commenced figuring the insurance in force per capita in the various states. Bought provisions & papers & came home. After dinner the boys & I went over to the garden & got all the beets & carrots. More carrots than beets. Got them home at 2.30 I went over & called on Spalding a few minutes & then went down town. Saw Jim Ford & Ed Byrne who are just out from grippe. Gee they look thin! Went up to Chet Cleaves office awhile & to the Montpelier House to supper. Went up to the Apollo Club & read awhile & got home at 11.15. This is the last day of the Liberty Loan drive & the country exceeded its six billions. New England went over the top as did Montpelier etc etc.

Mrs Frank B Martell sister of Mrs Ed Meigs died this afternoon in Mass. Her hus band was a barber here for some years Harvey E Barnum died today in Haverhill aged 71 Most of his life was spent in Calais.

Sunday, Oct. 20, 1918

Arose at 8.00 Had breakfast & went down town at 9.30 Met Edgar Hall & went up to his shop on Franklin St & got a lot more pictures of Calais people. John Thompson, the Van Ormans Ed Lamphere etc. Got another small album of him & bought papers & came home at 12.45. Ate dinner & wrote on backs of all the pictures I knew. Slept awhile read awhile & ate off the pantry sheep at 6.30 Read in The City that was for an hour & at 7.55 laid me head on me pillow for the night.

As cheerless a day as I ever knew. Rained & blew all the afternoon & it rains hard tonight.

I saw a sparrow died tonight at 6.00 at Eaton Hospital aged 33 He was son of Irving married Gus Bliss' daughter & for some years has been a retail meat deliverer up the Middlesex Center road

Monday, Oct. 21, 1918

All day at the office. Spent the whole day figuring the insurance per capita of Dec 31, 1917 in the 48 states in the union. Rich & Bennett cleaned out the cellar in forenoon & it looks fine.

Went up again at 2. or school to the Montpelier House to see Mauston about my income tax returns. Found he lived in Lancaster for 10 years leaving there some 30 years ago. Home at 5.30 & painted the registers in the tenement taking them out on the veranda & leaving them. Edy as well came up while I was at it & collected \$3.25 for the photos I bought yesterday.

In the evening played 3 games of Words with Kate & Agnes. Kate beat 1st, I second & she third. I got disgusted during the last game when Agnes took back a play she was to make seeing I was going to get her word. We retired at 11.00

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 1918

All day at the office. Working on tables showing the insurance per capita & gains in insurance per capita in the United States.

Vidal sitting around as usual all day. Long doing nothing at \$16.00 per day. After dinner went over to Mrs Perkins to see what she would let Lombard her barn for per month. Bought a dozen pencils for George Wing for \$1.50! After work went up street & got shaved at Merards. Got Wing a box of Prince Albert for \$1.45. Home & changed clothes & Agnes & I went to the Wings to supper. None others than we were present.

Today is his 70th birthday & as has been our custom every year beginning in 1907 we were there to supper. We visited until 10.15 when we came home. Very cold night.

Florence Halls of East Montpelier died this P. M. aged 49. Died on her birthday. Graduated from the Commercial Course on New Hill worked for Dillingham Bros & Howland & afterward for latter at Waterbury. Well-riden & blind for some time

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 1918

All day in the office. Finis hid two tables one showing insurance per capita in each of the United States Jan 1, 1914 & the other the gain per capita in 1917. Took them down & showed them to Ned & he seemed well satisfied.

Expected Somers & Mix would come this morning & clean out furnace but they did not.

Left office at 4:45. Went up to Charlie Bancroft's rooms & he showed me what he had been doing about drawing off list of soldiers & sailors from Montpelier.

Home to supper & Kate, Agnes & Rich & I played cards till about 8:40 when Mrs Wing & Mrs Deans called for a half hour.

Retired at 9:45. Word was passed about today that schools would be closed till Nov 4th.

Thursday, Oct. 24, 1918

All day at office & about. Ned went last night to Rochester. I worked on insurance per capita in whole U. S. for all the years since 1910. Went over to library & had a long visit with Bill. Wrote a letter to Ches G. Gled of Tupelo whom we had as dead in our neurology & who is alive! Home to dinner & afternoon spent solid at my desk.

After work went to the Capital City Press & talked with Sewery Hanley about the specifications of our new rate books containing ages under 20 & old style endowments. Hanley seems to have a lot to do with the Capital City Press & I would not be surprised to see him land a job there.

Got a duplicate copy of U. S. Government 1914 & came home. After supper got out 23 pictures of local characters from above books then played cards with Kate & Agnes for an hour then popped corn, read & retired at 9:45.

Miss Olive P. Guernsey died today in College St at Spencer. She kept books at the Seminary for many years & I liked her very much.

Spanish Influenza in Vermont, 1918-1919

by Michael Sherman

On September 19, 1918 Dorman Bridgeman Eaton Kent of Montpelier wrote in his diary that several cases of influenza, which he sometimes calls the "grip," were reported in town. A few days later, on September 24, Kent himself got the flu. He kept notes about it and filled in his diary after he recovered.

September 24: "Awoke at 7:00 [A.M.] sick, sick, sick. Didn't get up or try to. Had a high fever an awful headache every minute all day and was sick to my stomach also. Tried to get Dr. Watson in the morning but he couldn't come. Told us instead what to do. Greased cloths with inflamacene all day and put around throat and chest and held a bottle of hot water at throat most of the time. Took a seidlitz powder [something like today's Alka Seltzer] about 10.00 and threw it up soon so then took two tablespoons of castor oil. Then the movements began and I spent a good part of the time at the seat. . . . The schools closed at noon today for a half day. There is a tremendous lot of influenza in town."

September 26. "Another whole day in bed with influenza. . . . The

© Michael Sherman 2004

A version of this article appeared in Historic Roots, vol. 3, no. 1 (April 1998): 11-18.

paper says there are six or eight hundred cases of grip in town and five doctors are sick.”

By September 29 Dorman Kent was sufficiently recovered to resume much of his normal activity. By then, however, his two sons had caught the flu, with symptoms of high fever and nose bleed. His diary continues to record the numbers of deaths in Montpelier, punctuated by comments like "Terrible times," underlined three times; "9 died over Sunday & 4 today. Its awful, awful;" "The sickness is increasing hourly. Awful, awful!"

On October 2, Kent wrote that volunteers began a door to door census of the disease in Montpelier. A partial count of two wards found 1,237 sick in bed and 1,876 "either ill or recovered. . . . 8 in all died in town through this night & over 40 have died in Barre in 3 days." On October 3 he writes that "25 have died in Barre today & the conditions are getting worse all the while. . . . Terrible times."

October 4: "It is thought tonight there are about 1,400 cases in town." The door-to-door census continued on October 6-8, with a Relief Committee formed by volunteers to provide what little assistance they could in the way of nursing, calling for ambulances or disposing of bodies. Kent

concluded his entry for October 11 by noting "59 deaths in Montpelier in 12 days."

The disease seems to have abated toward the middle of the month in Montpelier, but it continued to spread throughout the rest of the state and on October 23 Kent noted "Word was passed about today that schools would be closed till Nov 4th."¹ It is his last mention of Spanish influenza in the diary for 1918. On November 11, 1918, World War I ended. The worst of the epidemic had passed; the fear and misery of the past several weeks was cast aside, perhaps even forgotten by many as they joined in the nationwide and worldwide rejoicing over the conclusion of the four-year conflict. In many respects life in Vermont, and in the nation as a whole, began to return to normal.

Dorman Kent was lucky: he and his sons survived. Worldwide, the flu killed more than 22 million individuals in 1918-1919; some estimates go as high as 100 million.¹ It was one of the most devastating epidemics in world history. In the U.S. alone, the death toll was over half a million individuals, five times the number of American soldiers killed during the four years of World War I. In Vermont, there were 35,954 recorded cases
