

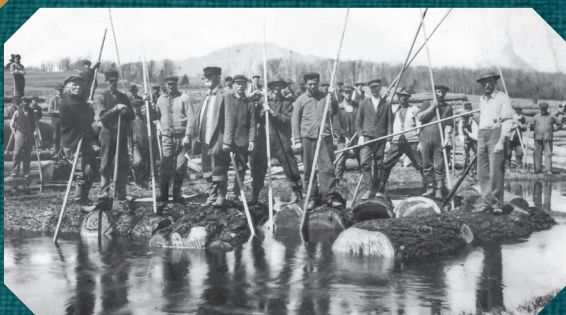
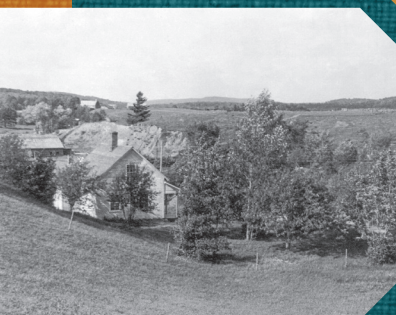


SOCIÉTÉ  
D'HISTOIRE  
DU CANTON  
D'ORFORD

# A year in a life in **Cherry River**

JOHN BUZZELL

1916 - 17



JANE JENSON | ALAN ALBRIGHT

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John Buzzell, 1916-1917***

Jane Jenson  
Alan Albright

April 2023

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First among them is Wallace Moffatt of Magog, the great-grandson of John Buzzell and Julia Wilson, grandson of John Moffatt and Lavinia Buzzell, and son of Robert John Moffatt and Florence Mitson.

Wallace Moffatt carefully preserved this historic document and then generously offered to make it available to us.

We also thank Bernard Clément, Gilles Lauzon, and Denis Tremblay of the SHCO.



**I.**  
**John Buzzell and Cherry River**

Jane Jenson  
Alan Albright

On March 1, 1916, John Buzzell started a journal of his daily activities. Reading it more than 125 years later opens a fascinating window onto an ordinary life in the village. In 1916 and 1917, the Great War (1914-18) was raging on the battlefields of France and Belgium, but it touched John Buzzell's life very little. Despite having a subscription to *The Daily Star*, one of Montreal's newspapers, the events of the larger world rarely appear in the diary. His concerns continued to revolve around his work, his family, and his community, as it had for his previous 65 years.<sup>1</sup>

We also find in this diary, however, clear signs that change was in the wind, for him and for Cherry River. None of his children's families still lived there, and none was farming. They had engineering or industrial jobs, and some had even moved "west" to Ontario. In the diary, he also tells us that while he and his neighbours traveled by buggy, wagon or sleigh, his children were buying their first automobiles or were easily travelling back and forth to Montreal or to Sherbrooke by train. His house and a few others were "on the telephone," but letters were the primary means of communication with relatives. The diary tells a story, therefore, of change in the

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<sup>1</sup> Indeed, in this diary he mentions his contact with and concerns almost 100 people. See *Chapter III. The People in John Buzzell's Life, 1916 – 1917*, p. 75.

twentieth as well as continuity with the nineteenth century.



*John Buzzell with his sons or nephews.*  
Source and date unknown.



Who was John Buzzell? Born in 1850, he was the thirteenth and last child of Daniel Taylor Buzzell and Mary Jane Fuller. He was born at Sally's Pond near Bolton Pass, where his family operated a sawmill and

### **Reading Note #1**

Such a concentration in one hamlet of a single large family, including six sons to pass on the name, meant that the Buzzells and their in-laws through several generations were omnipresent in the community [see Chapter III]. The reader will note a literary consequence of there being so many relatives. When he mentioned them, John Buzzell used both their given names and their family name. For example, when his brother was dying in May 1916, the diary reported "Myron Buzzell is sick" and similarly he usually referred to his good friend and nephew, son of his sister Philena, as AE Sager.

shop.<sup>2</sup> They left Bolton when John was a child, and after a short stay at Castle Brook in Magog Township, his parents and their younger children arrived in Cherry River in 1862.<sup>3</sup> They were joining

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<sup>2</sup> In the first half of the nineteenth century, most locales had a tub factory. Daniel Taylor Buzzell, before coming to Cherry River, manufactured tubs, chairs and other wooden items at Bolton Pass. Rev E.M. Taylor, *History of Brome County, Quebec from the date of grants therein to the present time with Records of some early families* (Montreal: J. Lovell & Son, 1908), pp. 154-55.

<sup>3</sup> Jane Jenson and Juanita McKelvey, "Settling Cherry River. Internal migration in the Eastern Townships in the nineteenth century." *Quebec Heritage News*, Summer 2020. <https://www.histoireorford.com/parutions>.

the families of three of John's sisters who were already farming and logging there. In all, ten of the thirteen children raised families in the village.<sup>4</sup> When the diary opens, all but four of his siblings had died, but many of their children and grandchildren still lived in Cherry River or nearby in Magog. The eldest brother, Abel (b. 1829), was born more than 20 years before John. With this age gap, John actually grew up in the company of many nephews and nieces. The diary tells us they kept close ties.

## **JOHN AND JULIA'S FAMILY**

On November 19, 1870 in Derby, Vermont, John Buzzell married Juliette Louise Wilson, daughter of Abigail Heath and David Wilson. Called Julia by her family and in this diary, she was 18 at the time of her marriage. One of seven Wilson daughters, she was the second to marry in 1870. In July, her sister Jeanette Louella had married Daniel Andrew, son of Abel Buzzell and Hannah Maria Norton. Then in 1873, two other sisters married sons of Abel and Hannah: Ellen to Charles Curtis and Clemena to Edward. Daniel A. and Jeanette's sons Lucius (b.

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<sup>4</sup> His sister Polly (b. 1837) died as a child. Hannah (b. 1840) married Patrick Browley and they lived in Georgeville, while Daniel Evans (b. 1842), and Lucia Ann Merry emigrated to Illinois, where he died in 1913.

1873) and James (b. 1877) were John Buzzell's nephews; they appear frequently in the diary, as do several children of Ellen and Charles.

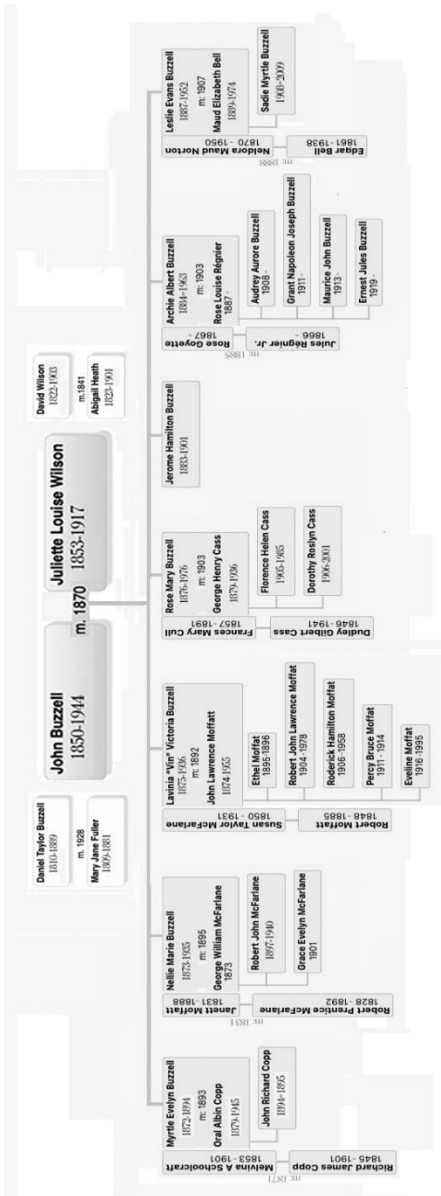
Julia Wilson and John Buzzell had four daughters and three sons. In recognition of her mothering, he usually referred to Julia as "Ma" in the diary. The eldest daughter, Myrtle Evelyn, known as Myrtie (b. 1872), died nine months after the birth of her first child, John Richard Copp (called Johnnie) in March 1894. This first grandchild also died the next summer in July 1895.<sup>5</sup> Jerome Hamilton (b. 1882) was Julia and John's eldest son and he too died very young, in 1901. All three lie in the Cherry River cemetery.

The diary provides only infrequent news about two daughters who were living in Paris, Ontario with their families. Nellie Marie (b. 1873) married George William McFarlane in 1895. They had lived in Magog where he worked for the CPR and Dominion Textile, but in 1916 they were in Ontario where he had founded the G.W. McFarlane Engineering Company to make artillery shells.<sup>6</sup> In moving there, they joined Julia and John's youngest daughter, Rose Mary (b. 1876) and her husband, George Henry Cass.

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<sup>5</sup> Ethel, a second grandchild who was the daughter of Lavinia Buzzell and John Moffatt, died at 11 months in July 1896.

<sup>6</sup> B.M. Greene (ed.) *Who's Who and Why, 1919-20* (Toronto: International Press Limited), p. 1461.



Over the next years, George Cass would also be actively involved in directing the engineering company.



*Photo taken in Paris, Ontario sometime in the late 1920s or early 1930s.*

Courtesy of Wallace Moffatt

Back row L-R – George Cass, Sadie Buzzell & Frank Keighley, Maud Bell Buzzell, Dorothy Cass, Susan McFarlane Moffatt (mother of John Moffatt), Florence Cass, Evelyn Moffatt, [two unidentified] John Moffatt

Front row L-R – Leslie Buzzell, Lavinia (Vin) Buzzell Moffatt, John Buzzell, Edith Dukes Buzzell (John's second wife), Rose Louise Régnier Buzzell, Archie Buzzell

Seated on grass – Maurice Buzzell, Audrey Buzzell, Ernest Buzzell.

The doings of their children was a major part of everyday life for Julia and John, and they were frequently visited by the three still living in Quebec. Their daughter Lavinia, known as Vin (b. 1875),

lived in Magog with her husband John Moffatt and their three children.<sup>7</sup> Along with his brother and uncles, John Moffatt worked at the textile mill.<sup>8</sup> Vin Buzzell and John Moffatt married in 1892 and she also worked in the sample room at the mill. The diary recounts several family visits in Cherry River or Magog with “the Moffatts,” as John always called them.

Son Archie (b. 1884) was a frequent visitor. The family of his wife, Rose Louise Régnier, lived nearby. Before his 1907 marriage, Archie had worked for Dominion Textile in Magog, but the 1911 census found him in Bromptonville employed by the Brompton Pulp and Paper Company.<sup>9</sup> Rosie, as John

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<sup>7</sup> John Moffatt (b. 1872) was the nephew of his brother-in-law, George W. McFarlane (b. 1873), being the son of George’s sister Susan McFarlane (b. 1855) who had married Robert P. Moffatt. The young men were living together in Magog, where the 1891 census reported both Susan and her father were widowed and had set up a single household.

<sup>8</sup> For the history of Magog’s textile mill, see <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/culture/clmhc-hsmbc/res/information-background/magog-textile>.

<sup>9</sup> On Brompton Pulp and Paper see: <http://www.circuitbrompton.com/en/fiche/maison-des-arts-et-de-la-culture-de-brompton/1/en/brompton-pulp-paper-company/2>. Archie did well enough in the paper company to buy a car that he used to go back and forth to Cherry River in 1916-17. By 1921, he had become a foreman at the paper company, currently owned by Cascades, in Kingsey Falls.



*Dominion Textile Sample Room, undated but between 1901-1916.*

Source: Eastern Townships Resource Centre, CA ETRC P-135-008-09-001

Buzzell always called her, had moved as a child from Magog to Cherry River with her parents, Rose Goyette and Jules Régnier, jr. where her father became postmaster.<sup>10</sup> They rejoined a long-time village family. Rosie's grandfather, Pierre Goyette, and grandmother, Phebe Flavie Stratford, had been living in Cherry River for decades. Given these family and neighbourly ties, Mrs Jules Régnier and

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<sup>10</sup> In 1897, Rose Louise's grandfather, Jules Régnier, sr., bought the store and post office from Robert A. Buzzell and a year later he purchased the R.A. and John Buzzell Shop from John Buzzell. Her father, Jules Régnier, jr. was the postmaster in Cherry River until the post office closed in 1913, replaced by rural mail delivery.

Rosie's sister Violet Régnier appear often in the diary. During the war, factories and resource industries did well, and so did some employees. Archie and Rose Louise were able to buy an automobile in summer 1916, something that very few workers could do at the time.

Leslie Evans (b. 1887) was the youngest child. He married Maud Bell in 1907 and they had one daughter, Sadie, born the next year. In 1916, he was a munitions worker in Montreal while Sadie and Maud were living with her parents, Neldora Norton and Edgar Bell.<sup>11</sup> Leslie and Sadie appear often in the diary. He made frequent trips to Magog by train from Montreal to visit his parents and Sadie. John Buzzell frequently reports picking him up or dropping him off at the Magog train station.<sup>12</sup> Leslie would go and get Sadie to bring her to her Buzzell grandparents' house to spend the day with him or to have a meal. In 1917, Leslie and his family also moved to Paris, Ontario.

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<sup>11</sup> Both the Nortons and the Bells were families long settled in Cherry River.

<sup>12</sup> Magog finally gained its rail link to Montreal in 1888, when the Canadian Pacific Railway "Short Line" was built. Derek Booth, *Forest Utilization in the Eastern Townships, 1890-1930*. PhD Thesis, McGill University, 1971, pp. 111-12.





*John Buzzell with his daughter Lavinia and son Leslie*  
 Courtesy of Wallace Moffatt

In his diary, John Buzzell wrote often of the health of his relatives. During the years of his diary, two of his grandchildren had to go to a city for treatment because Magog could not provide the necessary care. In May 1916, John Buzzell telephoned Leslie in Montreal, telling him to return immediately to Cherry River because eight-year-old Sadie was very sick. Dr Bowen, the well-known physician from Magog, sent her, with her parents, to Sherbrooke for an operation. Then in 1917 Roderick Moffatt, just eleven, spent time in Montreal's Royal

**Reading Note # 2 – “Measles, measles, measles everywhere”**

John Buzzell wrote this lament on February 21, 1917. Before the creation of a vaccine, there was a wave of measles infection every two or three years. Contagion was high in winter and when large numbers lived in small spaces. Soldiers living in training camps and loggers in winter camps were particularly susceptible, as were children. Thus, Acey [Asa] Buzzell, who was 35 and working in his father’s logging camp, caught measles, as did 11-year-old Georgie Mitson, as John Buzzell reported on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Victoria Hospital for treatment of an eye. At the same time, Julia Wilson was suffering from the heart problems that would eventually kill her. Leslie returned to his parents’ home several times because he was sick and, during one of Archie’s visits, his father describes him as lame and failing fast (a condition that did not last).

However, winter 1917 was a particularly unhealthy moment because Cherry River experienced a major outbreak of measles. John’s grandnephew Asa, son of Charles Curtis Buzzell, died of measles on January 28, 1917. Several other men in the winter logging camp also became sick with the virus.

## FARM WORK

Cherry River had an agro-forestry economy in the first decades of the twentieth century. Farming was primarily for subsistence. Farmers also used the wood from their land for heating and as building materials for the farm. Some farms may have generated enough income to live on, but this was not the case for all of them. Many families needed other sources of income and of cash, especially for that group of men whom the 1911 census categorised as labourers rather than farmers.<sup>13</sup>

In 1916, Julia and John were farming on land that they had acquired over several years. Their house and small barn were built between 1875 and 1880 and that was where they raised their family.<sup>14</sup>

The farm occupied Julia all year round. As the diary recounts, her production of butter and eggs provided the only regular source of ready cash coming from

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<sup>13</sup> Of the men John Buzzell hired [see below], the 1911 census classified most as “labourers.” Some were farm labourers while others did “odd jobs.” For example, AE Sager and Nelson Smith were in the second category while Nelson’s son, Leslie, was a farm labourer. Among the jobs AE Sager held was conducting the 1911 census in Cherry River.

<sup>14</sup> See *1884 Valuation Roll*, Canton d’Orford. John Buzzell and Julia Wilson also acquired lot #947 in 1892 (registered in 1893 as *Registre foncier*, Sherbrooke County, B54 185).



Julia Wilson and John Buzzell's house and fields

Source: Juanita McKelvey, *Cherry River History (the Village)*, vol. 1, 2009, p. 146 / 250

the farm.<sup>15</sup> It was, however, inadequate as a household income. John was juggling, therefore, outdoor farm work with paid employment. His major job was at the log landing in Cherry River. He also worked as a carpenter. For example, JB Oliver hired him for six days in October and November 1916 to

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<sup>15</sup> Small subsistence farms kept a clear gender division of labour, even as in some parts of the province and country agricultural production was becoming larger and mechanised as well as dominated by men. On such small farms, women (and girls when they were present) worked year-round caring for dairy animals and poultry. Their seasonal work also involved growing and preserving for later consumption the vegetables and fruit of the farm. Such farms could not operate without “women’s work.”

See <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/status-of-women>.

shingle his boathouse and to construct a porch on his house.<sup>16</sup>

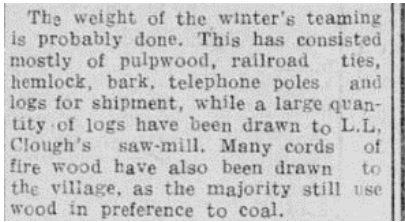
The couple did produce much of their own food, buying only some processed feed for their animals and the few food staples the farm did not produce – mainly sugar. The diary contains detailed and frequent accounts of John Buzzell's trips to Magog. There he had barter exchanges at the Vaughan Brothers (usually written Vaughan Bros) store, where he would trade butter and eggs and, seasonally, potatoes and beans, to buy animal feed and a few other provisions. In these careful accounts, he records his tallies of receipts and disbursements, often with no cash changing hands. An additional farm product that did occasionally generate cash was elderly dairy cows or pigs, which he killed and then sold to the butcher in Magog. As he recounts, however, he sometimes had trouble collecting his payments from the butcher, who himself probably operated on an equally tight cash margin. Nor was keeping a dairy herd a cost-free proposition. If for three seasons the cows could graze outside in the fields, they needed hay for the winter. Mowing and storing hay required John to hire labour, often from his younger relatives, as he recounts in detail in late July and August 1916.

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<sup>16</sup> JB Oliver lived in Magog on Hatley Street, near the corner of Merry South.

### Reading Note #3 – Drawing Wood

The contemporary equivalent of this expression is hauling wood. The old-fashioned phrasing was common in the Eastern Townships, sometimes appearing in the pages of *The Sherbrooke Record*. Here on February 20, 1911 the correspondent from Ayer's Cliff describes the end of winter drawing, mentioning the sawmill for which John Buzzell also did some work on February 17, 1917.



The weight of the winter's teaming is probably done. This has consisted mostly of pulpwood, railroad ties, hemlock, bark, telephone poles and logs for shipment, while a large quantity of logs have been drawn to L.L. Clough's saw-mill. Many cords of fire wood have also been drawn to the village, as the majority still use wood in preference to coal.

John Buzzell catalogues his own work “around home,” as he called it. A major task in late winter, recounted in the early pages of the diary, was bringing in wood for the house and farm. He had a woodlot to which he often travelled. From March 13<sup>th</sup> to March 23<sup>th</sup> 1916, he worked full-time on it (and he had to do similar work again in December). For the first four days, he and his horse broke trail through the deep snow that would allow them to “skid” logs out of the woods, and gather them ready for the next step. Then for an additional five days, again with the horse, he was “drawing wood,” bringing it in a sleigh or wagon to the farm, where he could then begin splitting some of it for firewood and

making fence posts. He repeated this work again in December.

The late spring months on the farm were occupied with planting and hoeing potatoes and beans as well as planting fodder corn and hauling manure from the barnyard to the fields as fertiliser. Then came the major job of haying, in late July and early August. While he did much himself, he eventually called on James Buzzell, who brought his hired man, Cecil Powers, and his team of horses to work several days for him. John Buzzell paid in cash for this help (July 29, 1916). Fall brought harvesting of beans and potatoes. They were stored for family consumption during the winter, but any surplus was sold the next spring to Vaughan Bros. There was also butchering, for both the family's own consumption and to sell in Magog.

The diary says nothing about Julia Wilson's workdays, but given the number of eggs and amount of butter and cream her husband took to Vaughan Bros, she would have been as busy with farm work as he was. In addition, she had housework and all the meals to prepare, sometimes including surprise visitors when John's employer, JB Oliver, and other logging men came for dinner at noon. Nonetheless, despite the amount of effort and heavy labour of two

people, the couple needed other paid work to supplement small-scale farming.

Simultaneously pursuing a number of different jobs was nothing new for John Buzzell. In 1870 when he married Julia Wilson, his marriage certificate described him as a carpenter & joiner from Orford. After their marriage, the couple moved to Cherry River and to the 1871 census-taker, he still said he was a carpenter. In 1881, however, when Julia and he were already farming their 23 acres, he told the census-taker he was a “mechanic.”<sup>17</sup> At the time, he and his brother Robert were operating the R.A. and John Buzzell Shop that the 1895 *Lovell’s Directory of the Eastern Townships* described as manufacturing butter boxes. In 1888, Robert sold out to John, who as sole owner took a \$400 mortgage on both the shop and the farm in 1889.<sup>18</sup> For that transaction, he declared himself a “manufacturer”

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<sup>17</sup> The Canadian census allowed respondents to name their own occupation. If they had two – such as farming and another – the census taker could decide to record either both or only one. Canada Department of Agriculture, *Manual Containing the Census Act and the Instructions to Officers Employed in the Taking of the First Census of Canada 1871* (Ottawa: 1871), p. 26 and the manuals for subsequent censuses. The *Valuation Roll* for Canton d’Orford in 1884 indicated that John Buzzell held 23 acres, valued at \$350.

<sup>18</sup> *Registre foncier*, Sherbrooke County, B49 12; B49 18.



but for the 1891 census he was a “farmer.”<sup>19</sup> Then in 1901, when he was living in Magog with his children who were working in the textile mill, he again described himself as a carpenter. In other words, throughout all of his working life, John Buzzell had juggled farm work with another kind of activity, whether tub making, carpentry, or employment at the log landing.

## WORKING FOR PROUTY AND MILLER

John Buzzell worked for the large lumber company, Prouty and Miller, whose headquarters and sawmill were in Newport, Vermont.<sup>20</sup> John’s two work

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<sup>19</sup> John Buzzell sold the shop to Jules Régnier, sr. in 1898 (*Registre foncier*, Sherbrooke County, B59 680).

<sup>20</sup> A steam sawmill opened in Newport in 1863. Logs were brought from the shores of Lake Memphremagog in large rafts or on barges, both being towed by multi-purpose steamboats like the *Lady of the Lake* and the *Nora*. John A. Prouty and Oscar C. Miller took over the mill, creating the company Prouty and Miller in 1876. At first, they bought their logs from farmers but later they acquired their own timberlands around the lake as well as on and around Mount Orford. Transport by water was less costly than by train, with the logs being collected from Magog or the other landings on the lakeshore, such as Perkins Landing or Knowlton Landing. The sawn wood was then shipped by train to American cities via the interconnecting US rail network of the time. Mrs. W. R. Prouty and Mr. P. O. Miller, “Newport Industrially - Prouty & Miller.” *Beautiful Waters. Devoted to the Memphremagog Region and Adjacent*

activities were compatible because much of the business at the log landing was in the winter and then spring, during high water in the Cherry River, while farming occupied his summer and fall months.

He earned a salary by assisting JB Oliver, who was Prouty and Miller's agent. As the diary catalogues, John Buzzell also hired several other men from Cherry River and Magog Township to work seasonally on the log landing: receiving loads and stocking it in winter; working the drive in the spring; and peeling logs in May. This part-time employment provided all of them with wages and cash in the agro-forestry economy of Cherry River.

John Buzzell had acquired numerous skills over his 65 years. One of these was management. The diary opens on March 1, 1916 with him very busy at the landing, as he had been "all winter." Wood, both that harvested on land owned by Prouty and Miller and that sold to the company by farmers from their own wood lots, was stocked on the log landing in the village.<sup>21</sup> Located on the edge of Henry Quilliams'

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*Counties*, 2<sup>nd</sup> vol. (Newport, VT: Bullock Publishing Group, 1938), pp. 253-62.

<sup>21</sup> Initially in the 1860s, logs driven from Cherry River, including butternut used for ship timber, went to Magog and then to Sherbrooke, either for sawmills there or to be shipped by rail. Later, however, much wood from the Memphremagog

land in Range 14, it was the place where logs were collected during the winter months after having been skidded and then hauled out of the woods. The diary entries for winter 1917 describe this winter work. Despite the difficult weather and the snow, the winter months were the busiest because the horses and sleds could haul logs both on the snow in the woods and roads and on frozen, snow-covered rivers. The diary entries for February 1917 track the arrival of loads.

At this time, John Buzzell needed additional help at the landing. Therefore, part of his job was to keep track of the hours worked by the other men of the

**Reading note #4 – JB Oliver**

James Bernard Oliver was born in 1846 at Oliver Corner, on the Georgeville Road (where rue Gendron and Route 247 intersect). Settled by his great-grandparents and their sons who came from New Hampshire, this hamlet took the family name. As did many men of the time, his grandfather, Capt. William Oliver, used his title from the militia in the War of 1812. JB's father, Edward Bernard, was a carriage maker and carpenter, and his son followed him into that trade, both in Oliver Corner and later in Magog. By 1911, however, he was 65 and had taken up a new position, as a timber broker and representative of Prouty and Miller in Magog. He was a prominent citizen of the town, appointed bailiff, and being an active Free Mason. He and John Buzzell's family encountered each other at the Methodists' New Church on Merry Street North (now the Vieux Clocher).

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area moved south on the lake. Booth, *Forest Utilization in the Eastern Townships*, pp. 115; 96.

village whom he had hired and to prepare their “bills” for wages, which were paid by JB Oliver in Magog.



*Logs in the bog of the Cherry River in Magog.*

Source:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/WorkGroups/House%20Commerce/City%20of%20Newport/W~Laura%20Dolgin~Presentation%20on%20City%20of%20Newport~1-31-2019.pdf>

The next big moment for the log landing was when the logs were transferred to the water, so they could be “driven” down the river and then readied for transport to Newport. During high water in the spring, a log drive sent the logs from the landing in

Cherry River (and sometimes from points higher) to the Cherry River bog (today known as the *marais*). They were then moved on to Lake Memphremagog where they were incorporated into Prouty and Miller's large booms of softwoods. Steamboats tugged these booms from Magog to the company's mill in Newport, while hardwood was put onto barges and transported there too.

Over several days in April 1916, John Buzzell was "booming the bog," with the help of his nephews Noris [Norace] Baird and Martin Baird, the latter who lived on the 17<sup>th</sup> range of Magog, on the border with Canton d'Orford and near the river channel. The river crossed through his land and his fields bordered the bog. The boom was composed of log pieces chained together. Once it was in place, the drive could begin, and the men could "roll" the wood down to the Cherry River from the landing.

Even if the drop in elevation between the landing and the bog was not very large, the drive remained a difficult and dangerous logging operation. While the water provided most of the force for momentum, the critical task was to keep the logs moving and prevent jams from piling up or logs from catching on the shores of the river. When that happened, the driver had to locate and dislodge the log that was blocking the others, so that the flow of logs could continue.

The tools used in this drive were the pick poles (staves with a point and hook at one end), which John was fixing on April 24<sup>th</sup>. After the logs arrived in the bog, they were moved to Magog, where they were incorporated into the large booms towed down the lake. John Buzzell was working at Lake Memphremagog on these booms on June 12, 1916.

Beyond managing the work at the log landing, John Buzzell had a particular skill. He was responsible for “scaling logs.” This job involved measuring cut trees to determine the scale (volume) and quality (grade) of the wood in order to set the price paid to the farmer who had cut them. Logs were measured, the species identified, and deductions made for defects. On the Prouty and Miller log landing, the wood was probably unloaded from each wagon and rolled out on the ground in a single layer. John Buzzell would then scale the logs, record the result, and report it to JB Oliver, who would pay the supplier. He did this scaling regularly and even travelled with Oliver to do it for a lumber mill in Ayer’s Cliff (March 17, 1916) and for Ephrém Dion on December 15, 1916.

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This one year in the life of John Buzzell, as described in his diary, ran from March 1, 1916 to the end of February 1917. The events of the next year were quite similar, but with two major exceptions: the death of Julia Wilson and his move to Paris, Ontario.



*Julia Wilson - Cherry River Cemetery*  
 Photograph -Alan Albright, October 2022

On November 1, 1917, Julia Wilson succumbed to her heart disease, collapsing and dying while on a visit in the village. All the children immediately rallied around the heart-broken John, coming by train from Paris, Ontario and from Magog. John looked

after the arrangements for the funeral: the coffin, hearse, and death certificate. On November 4<sup>th</sup> the funeral was held at their house, followed by the burial in the Cherry River cemetery, the very one John and his neighbours maintained.

The children convinced their father to sell out and leave Cherry River to live with three of them in Ontario. Indeed, he would have been hard-pressed to keep the farm going without Julia's work with the dairy and chickens as well as in the house. The sale by auction of all the household goods and farm products and animals was speedily organised and held on November 15<sup>th</sup>, generating \$851.<sup>22</sup> The 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 1917 John Buzzell left Magog by train to take up his new life in Paris, Ontario. There he did numerous chores at his daughters' homes and worked around his son-in-law's shell factory. Nonetheless, reading between the lines, it is obvious that the widower felt somewhat lost and on April 24, 1918 he said he was "ready to go East," which he did.

John Buzzell never returned to live in Cherry River. He settled in Magog where he married a widow, Edith Dukes Drew, in the Methodist Church on

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<sup>22</sup> On February 14, 1919, John Buzzell found a buyer for all his land, house and buildings. He sold them to George A. McKelvey for \$1,800 (*Registre foncier*, Sherbrooke County, B83 37).



August 1, 1919. They lived on John Street in Magog. Their neighbours on that same street were Pierre Goyette and Phebe Flavie Stratford, who had also left the village to live in Magog. When his second wife died in 1936, the 86-year-old John returned to Paris, Ontario where eight years later, in 1944, he died and was buried. He was 94 years old.



Source: Source: Find-a-Grave memorial 162196269

\*\*\*\*\*

Julia Wilson's move into Cherry River and her farm life with John Buzzell had been the norm since the mid-nineteenth century. By the second decade of the twentieth century, however, another norm dominated. Their children no longer became nor

married farmers and loggers, and they did not stay in Orford. They took up other work in other places and, therefore, other lives. John Buzzell's long life was marked by major social changes that shaped the choices of his family. When he arrived in 1862 as a 12-year old in Cherry River, it was as a child of settlers. Over the years, he would learn several skills and successfully put his many talents to work in Cherry River's wood industry. During his life, he would also witness the industrial boom in the Eastern Townships and two world wars, as well as becoming accustomed to the tools of modern life such as the telephone and automobile.

Our choice to recount these 12 months in his life was not a random one. The diary describes a year located in the middle of the timeline of steady shift in Cherry River's agro-forestry economy and society. It predates by two decades the dramatic changes that would come with the governmental decision to build the access route to the new Mount Orford national park through Cherry River, thereby launching a village identity as a recreational site for short-term visitors, those working in Magog and Sherbrooke, or retired residents. The diary postdates by a similar amount of time the industrial take-off of Magog following the arrival of the textile mills in 1884 and the 1905 creation of the huge conglomerate that was Dominion Textile. Not only did these mills draw

workers to the town, including John Buzzell's children and many of his relatives and neighbours, but they also provided the example of modern industrial work. Employment in a factory rather than a small local shop or sawmill meant having a regular wage packet, and during World War I wages rose significantly. It meant some employees could join the emerging consumer economy, buying cars and furnishing houses in town, as his daughters and sons were doing.

With few options beyond farming, farm labour, and seasonal work in sawmills and logging camps, young people left the village. All Julia and John's children were gone by 1916. Nor were they the only young people of their generation to seek opportunities in surrounding industrial towns or even further afield. Emigration to the United States or westward in Canada took many of his nieces and nephews from Cherry River.<sup>23</sup>

The patterns that the diary recounts occurred both because of the pull of industrial work and because of

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<sup>23</sup> Current estimates say that between 1840 and 1940, 2.8 million Canadians settled in the United States. Approximately one-third were from Quebec. For the latter, industrial employment in New England and Maine was the main draw. Bruno Ramirez, *Crossing the 49th Parallel. Migration from Canada to the United States, 1900–1930*. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2018), preface and chapter 3.

the condition of the forestry sector itself as it wound down around Mount Orford. Nor were there many options for wage-earning coming into the village. In the years of colonisation, the symbiotic relationship between ample supplies of wood and the Buzzell family's experience with manufacturing small wooden items had led them to open, in addition to their sawmill, a shop producing a variety of wooden products, including butter and wash tubs. By 1895, the shop was best known for the manufacture of butter tubs. When John Buzzell sold it to Jules Régnier, sr. in 1898, however, it was a small enterprise, generating only \$125 in revenue in 1899.<sup>24</sup> By the start of the twentieth century, wash tubs were made of galvanised metal and butter boxes were easily mass-produced in large factories.

Therefore, beneath the seeming stability recorded in John Buzzell's diary – where even a world war did not much disrupt everyday life – he was witness to and participant in significant change in the Eastern Townships, Quebec and Canada. This diary fascinates us for both the details of everyday life that it describes and the waves of social and economic change on which rode.

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<sup>24</sup> *1899 Valuation Roll*, Canton d'Orford.



## **II.**

### **Transcription of John Buzzell's Diary, 1916-1917**

Alan Albright

Jane Jenson

This transcription covers only a portion of John Buzzell's diary. It includes the year from March 1, 1916 to February 24, 1917, plus a few important days in November 1917.

For the original manuscript diary for these dates, see this link to [the hand-written diary](#) (in PDF).

**1916**

- Wed Mar 1<sup>st</sup>**      Myself, AE Sager,<sup>25</sup> Will Bowen and Leslie Smith worked on the Prouty and Miller Log Landing at Henry Quilliams' Farm as we have all winter. Cold morning fine & clear.
- Thur, 2      Myself, Will Bowen and AE Sager worked on the landing. Les Smith did not work; his wife is sick. Stormy day. John Sullivan finished his job drawing logs today for Beaudette.
- Fri, 3      Myself, Will Bowen, AE Sager and Leslie Smith worked on the landing. I dropped them off tonight and made out their Bills. Will Bowen's was for \$24.00, AE Sager's was for \$24.00. Les Smith's was \$22.50. A nice day.
- Sat, 4      I worked alone on the log landing. The men went to Magog and got their pay from JB Oliver.
- Sun, 5      John Moffatt and the boys walked over this morning and had dinner, then I took them home in a snowstorm.
- \* \* \* \*26
- Monday 6th      I worked on the log landing alone today. We got a letter from Rose today saying George Mc. [McFarlane] and Nellie was sick with grippe.
- Tues 7th      I worked in the forenoon on the log landing. A big snowstorm today.
- Wed. 8      Archie came up this morning on the early train. I went over to Magog and met him, had dinner and an

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<sup>25</sup> For information about the people mentioned, see the accompanying document *The People in John Buzzell's Life, 1916 – 1917*, p. 74.

<sup>26</sup> Editors' note: this symbol indicates a new page in the diary.

early supper, then I took him back to Magog so he could go home on the evening train.

Thur 9th

Bad storm: layed in all day.

Fri 10th

Heavy snow all day. Scaled a few logs<sup>27</sup> and done some figuring.

Sat 11th

Went to Magog and gave in some scale bills to JB Oliver. He gave me a check for \$47.50 to pay me for 18 days work on the landing, in full to this date, March 11th 1916.

MAUD IS SICK AT MITSONS

\* \* \* \*

## 1916 March

Mon 13th

I went out to our wood lot and broke road to some wood. Snow very deep. Two young soldiers called to our house today: Arthur Jemmis [Jenner] and another fellow.

Tue 14

I worked up to our wood lot today getting wood down the hill. We got a letter from Nellie today saying she was sick.

Wed 15

I worked up to our wood lot getting wood off from the hill. We sent Leslie a parcel by Post today.

Thur 16

I finished getting my wood off the hill this forenoon.

Fri. 17

I went with JB Oliver to Oliver Corner to scale long timber for Clough and Worthing. But the wind blew so hard we could not work. So had dinner and came home.

---

<sup>27</sup> Scaling logs means measuring and assessing quality, to settle for payment.

Sat 18                      Drew some wood from our wood lot.

\* \* \* \*

## 1916 Mar

Mon 20th                      I drew wood today. Very cold.

Tues 21<sup>st</sup>                      I drew more wood. Snowed deep snow this forenoon. We got a letter from Les today, he said Archie was going to be in Montreal today.



Wed. 22                      I drew more wood

Thur 23                      I finished drawing wood today. Vic Buzzell has enlisted.

Fri 24                      Ma and I went to Magog today.

Sat 25                      At home.

Mon 27                      I was around home all day.

Tues 28                      I split wood.

Wed 29                      I split wood.

Thur 30                      I split wood.

Fri 31                      I split wood. Sap begins to rise.

**Sat. Apr 1**                      Worked around home.

\* \* \* \*

## 1916 April

Mon 3                      Around home. Sugaring generally. Victor Buzzell went to Sherbrooke to drill today.

Tues 4                      At home.

Wed 5                      At home. Big run of sap this week.



Thur 6 I went to Magog. Sold Vaughan 4 ½ bush. potatoes for \$1 per bushel, 11 ½ doz eggs for 25 cts per doz. Bought 3 bags bran and 2 bags shorts.<sup>28</sup>



Fri 7 I was at home splitting fence post.

Sat 8 I was at home splitting & sharpening posts.

Sunday 9 Snowed all day. I drove down to Martin Baird's. Found lots of mud.

\* \* \* \*

Mon 10 At home.

Tues 11 At home cutting brush.

Wed 12 I went to Magog.

Thur 13 I fixed henyard.

Fri 14 I went to Magog. Deeded James Buzzell the butter factory lot. JB Oliver & Harry Traver had dinner with us today. Snowed 4 in. this afternoon

Sat 15 At home all day.

Sun 16 Nice day.

\* \* \* \*

## 1916 April

Mon 17 I was working around home.

Tues 18 I went to Magog, roads very bad

---

<sup>28</sup> "Wheat shorts" consists of the fine bran particles, germ and a small portion of the floury endosperm particles that are a by-product of commercial flour milling. It is used as pig feed.

I let Vaughan have

10 doz eggs at 22 cts                      2.20

9 #<sup>29</sup> butter at 30                      2.70

got

—8 # codfish 8 cts

2 Mearoma

1 # green tea

Wed 19                      I took down some fence near the cemetery.

Thur 20                      I worked on old fences.

Fri 21<sup>st</sup>                      Myself, Martin Baird and Noris Baird, commenced to boom the bog today.

Sat 22                      Myself, Martin Baird & Noris Baird finished booming the bog from the CPR Bridge out to Martin's field. Leslie came tonight.

Sun 23                      Leslie went up to see Sadie this forenoon and started for Montreal tonight.

\* \* \* \*

**Apr Mon 24**

Went to Magog with the team.  
Went over to the bog bridge. Met  
Martin & Noris Baird with boat.  
We finished booming bog in  
forenoon, and after noon I fixed  
pick poles and came home.<sup>30</sup>



*Pick Pole*

<sup>29</sup> John Buzzell uses this symbol to indicate “pounds / lbs”.

<sup>30</sup> Pick poles or gaffs, are used to move logs during the drive.

- Tues 25 I worked on the river. We rolled on Martin Baird's logs and in afternoon we commenced to roll the logs at Quilliams landing.
- Wed 26 I worked with the men rolling logs at Quilliams landing. JB Oliver and Bob Norton had dinner with us this noon.
- Thur 27 I worked on Quilliams landing all day with the men. JB Oliver and Bob Norton had breakfast and JB Oliver had dinner. Mrs Oliver came up today for dinner.
- Fri 28 We finished rolling the logs at Quilliams and brought the rear down to Bull Head. JB Oliver and Bob Norton had breakfast & dinner.
- Sat 29 We jacked the logs<sup>31</sup> down at Martin Baird's until 4 PM

\* \* \* \*

## 1916 May

- Mon 1<sup>st</sup>** I worked around home.
- Tues 2<sup>nd</sup>** I went to Magog, sold Vaughan:
- |                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 5 bushels potatoes for 1.25 per lb | 6.25        |
| 9 doz eggs at 20                   | 1.80        |
| 9 # butter at 30                   | <u>2.70</u> |
|                                    | 10.75       |
- JB Oliver paid me \$20<sup>-</sup> for 8 days work on the river. I got Julia's interest from the town and put it in the bank.

---

<sup>31</sup> A log jack positions the log so it can be sawed.

Wed 3	I fixed fence today.	
Thur 4	I fixed fence.	
Fri 5	I finished fence.	
Sat 6	I went to Magog; let Vaughan have	
	4 ½ bushels of potatoes at 1.25	5.62
	1 1/3 bushels beans at 4.25	5.66

got

100 # seed oats, 2 bags phosphate

10 # bacon

I paid Warren Buzzell for pig 3.50

paid blacksmith for fixing wheel .75

\* \* \* \*

### 1916 May

Mon 8th	I went up to John Sullivan's Auction today. Leslie came home today sick.
Tues 9	I was drawing manure.
Wed 10	I was drawing manure.
Thur 11	I was farming. Leslie went back to Montreal tonight. Big wind.
Fri 12	I was farming.
Sat 13	I sowed my oats today.

Sun 14

Ed Bell sent me word to call Les to see Sadie as she is very sick. So I telephoned for him to night.

\* \* \* \*



## 1916 May

Mon 15<sup>th</sup>

I went to Magog, seen Les get off the train to get on again with Maud and Sadie, as Dr Bowen is taking her to Sherbrooke for an operation. They operated on her this afternoon at 1 o'clock.

Tues 16

I planted potatoes today. Sadie is very low today.

Wed 17

A bad, rainy day. I called Leslie tonight. He said Sadie was better.

Thur 18

I went to Magog today and let Vaughan have

11 bush. potatoes at 1.25	13.75
---------------------------	-------

8 doz eggs at 20 cts	1.60
----------------------	------

14 # Rhubarb ---

I got

2 bags shorts	2.90
---------------	------

and 2 “ [bags] bran	2.70
---------------------	------

and sugar	\$1.00
-----------	--------

Fri 19

I drewed manure today. Maud came up from Sherbrooke today and said Sadie is gaining.

Sat 20

I went to Magog today and bought my fodder corn.

\* \* \* \*

- May Mon 22** Leslie came up from Sherbrooke today and said Sadie was a little better. He went back again this evening. A lovely day.
- Tues 23d Cold and damp today. A little rain last night.
- Web 24 I planted our fodder corn today. A big hailstorm tonight.
- Thur 25 I finished planting fodder corn today.
- Fri 26 I worked with men peeling bark<sup>32</sup> for Prouty and Miller. Al Smith worked in forenoon. Nelson Smith and Oral worked all day, Les Smith working in afternoon. Noe Gaudreau and Levi Gaudreau worked all day. Myron Buzzell is sick.
- Sat 27 I worked peeling bark. Nelson & Oral Smith worked all day. Levi Gaudreau and Felix Daigneault worked all day. Noe Gaudreau did not work today. Myron is no better.

\* \* \* \*

## 1916 May

- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> I worked with Nelson and Oral Smith, Erney Quilliams, AE Sager peeling bark for Prouty & Miller. Levi Gaudreau and Felix Daigneault also worked. A very nice, warm day. Myron is no better.
- Tues 30 Rainy morning with a very heavy shower in the afternoon. Lucius mowed out to the old ward's corner today. I think Myron is failing every day.

---

<sup>32</sup> Bark was peeled off logs in order to lower the chance of damage by insects living under the bark. These were probably logs of hardwood that would be hauled to Magog to be taken by barge to Newport, VT.

Wed 31 I worked with AE Sager, Les Smith, Nelson Smith, Oral Smith, Erney Quilliams, Levi Richardson and Felix Daigneault peeling bark.

\* \* \* \*

## 1916

**Thur June 1<sup>st</sup>** I worked with AE Sager, Les Smith, Nelson Smith, Oral Smith, Edgar Buzzell, Alvin Buzzell, Levi Richardson and Felix Daigneault peeling bark for Prouty and Miller.

Fri 2 I worked in afternoon. AE Sager, Nelson Smith, Oral Smith, Edgar Buzzell, Alvin Buzzell, Levi Richardson and Felix Daigneault worked all day peeling bark.

Sat 3 I worked with AE Sager, Les Smith, Nelson Smith, Oral Smith, Erney Quilliams  $\frac{3}{4}$  day peeling bark. The rain stopped us working. Felix Daigneault only worked in the forenoon.

Sun 4 Rained all day.

\* \* \* \*

## 1916 June

Mon 5 I worked peeling bark with AE Sager, Nelson Smith, Oral Smith, Erney Quilliams, Les Smith, Levi Richardson, and Felix Daigneault. We don't think Myron will live through the night.

-----

Tues 6 Myron died this morning a little past 2 o'clock.

I went to Magog today. JB Oliver gave me a check to pay for all the bark peeling, so I have paid the men. Little Sadie came from Sherbrooke this morning.

Wed 7

I went to Sherbrooke today to see Leslie. Maud was operated on last night for appendicitis. I went through the Jenks Shellworks today.

\* \* \* \*

Thur 8

Myron was buried today. Mr JB Oliver and Mrs. Oliver came over and had dinner with us.

Fri 9

I worked around home today.

Sat 10

I went over to Magog and got Les this afternoon. He came up from Sherbrooke.

Archie and family drove in tonight with his auto. Archie is very lame and failing up very fast.



Sun 11

Archie went home this afternoon. *Model T Ford 1916*

Mon 12

I worked with Martin Baird and JB Oliver at the Lake string boom and running logs.<sup>33</sup> Leslie went to Sherbrooke today sick.

\* \* \* \*

---

<sup>33</sup> This is the boom being prepared for towing to Newport, VT.



**1916 June**

- Tues 13<sup>th</sup> I went to Magog and got Leslie as he came back from Sherbrooke. A lovely day.
- Wed 14 I cultivated our potatoes & corn today.
- Thur 15 I hoed our potatoes & corn today. The wind blew hard all day out of the south.
- Fri 16 I took Leslie over to Magog this forenoon as he went to Sherbrooke to see his doctor. A nasty wet day: fine rain fell nearly all day.
- Sat 17 I went to Magog and got Les.  
Got our butter money today \$13.86  
let Vaughan have 2 bush. potatoes on acc't



Pte Victor Buzzell  
No 748 865  
117 Bat #1 Platoon  
#1 Company Valcartier  
Cold wet weather.

\* \* \* \*

- June Mon 19** I worked on farm. Very cold. Smith took Leslie to Magog to go to Sherbrooke.
- Tues 20 I went to Magog after Leslie. I sold Vaughan 2 bushels of potatoes for cash \$2.00  
Very cold this morning. I worked on the road this afternoon, 4 hours.

- Wed 21 I worked on the road 8 hours today and paid C. Sager \$3<sup>-</sup>, making \$4.80 - being my road tax.<sup>34</sup> Leslie went to Sherbrooke again today.
- Thur 22 I was hoeing today.
- Fri 23 I went to Magog today and settled up with Vaughan: he owed me \$8.60cts. I bought 3 bags ~~bran~~ shorts and 1 bran and a bag of flour.
- Sat 24 I went to Magog and got Les from Sherbrooke. A lovely day.

\* \* \* \*

## 1916 June

- Sun 25<sup>th</sup> A big visit to our house today. Les went up and got Sadie and brought her down. Had dinner with us.  
[*a child's penmanship*] Sadie Buzzle June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1916
- Mon 26 Leslie went to Sherbrooke again. I hoed my fodder corn.
- Tues 27 Leslie came from Sherbrooke and Maud came home this morning with Leslie.
- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Leslie went to Montreal today. Fine day.
- Thu 29 Fine morning, but raining in afternoon. I fixed the graves today. Al Smith and Liddie went away today.
- Fri 30 I worked around home. A lovely day.
- July Sat 1<sup>st</sup>** At home. Nice day.

---

<sup>34</sup> Property owners had to pay taxes for road maintenance. They could pay off the bill by doing maintenance work themselves. John Buzzell partially covered his bill for \$4.80 by providing \$1.80 in labour.

[an address] LEB 10-18 St Catherine East,  
Montreal

\* \* \* \*

### 1916 July

Mon 3d	Rained nearly all day. I wanted to go to Magog today but it was too wet.
Tues 4	More rain, wind north east.
Wed 5	A very nice day.
Thu 6	A lovely day.
Fri 7	I hilled off my potatoes.
Sat 8	I finished my hoeing today. Maud went to Sherbrooke today for another operation.
Sun 9	A lovely day.

\* \* \* \*

### 1916 July

Mon 10	I put up 30 hay piles today. We got a letter from Leslie today saying he was sick.
Tues 11	Haying a little.
Wed 12	Haying.
Thur 13	JB Oliver came here from loading over some lumber with TJ Stocks. He got caught in a big shower and so got his pants wet. I had some hay get wet.
Fri 14	A lovely hay day, so I was haying a little.
Sat 15	A lovely day. I went to Magog and got our butter money for past 2 weeks: \$14.31.

Sun 16 A big rain this forenoon which raised the river to log driving pitch. Julia had a bad day of heart failure. Moffatt folks were to come over today, but the rain prevented.

Much thunder & lightning.

\* \* \* \*

**July Mon 17** I commenced haying south of the house today.

Tues 18 I was home haying.

Wed 19 I was haying. Bob Baird and Lena was over today.

Thur 20 I was haying.

Fri 21 Rained this forenoon. I went to Magog this afternoon. Saw Bob Baird. He starts for Valcartier tonight. He may never return again.

Sat 22 James Buzzell sent Cecil Powers to mow for me. He worked until 11 o'clock; cut down a lot of grass. In the afternoon James and Cecil came up and drewed in one load and helped me bale up the rest of it before a shower set in.

\* \* \* \*

Sun July 23 John Moffatt and family came over this morning before breakfast with an automobile. I mean before Ma and I had breakfast.

Mon 24 Good hay day. James Buzzell with his man, Cecil



Powers, and teams helped me get in my hay this afternoon. They worked 5 ½ hours. We are having very hot weather.

- Tues 25                      Good day. Very hot. James Buzzell mowed down a piece of grass for me this forenoon.
- Wed 26                      James Buzzell and man and team drewed in 2 loads of hay, this afternoon.
- Thur 27                      James mowed for me this forenoon in the farther field. Real cool today.
- Fri 28                        James drewed one load of hay for me this afternoon from the farther field.

\* \* \* \*

- July Sat 29                      I paid James Buzzell this morning for work in hayfield. Himself, team and man, in full: \$11.00. I went to Magog this afternoon and got our butter money: \$13.06 ~~in full for~~. I brought Archie's wife and Violet Regnier over home. They had supper with Ma and me, but stayed overnight at E. Goyette's.
- Sun 30                        Rosie and Violet had dinner and supper with Ma and me. Archie came after we had supper, so he had supper and took Rosie and Violet in his car and started for home at half past six this evening and arrived at home at half past 9 in the evening.
- Mon 31                        I was cutting some hay over in the northwest field.
- Tues Aug 1**                      Haying alone over west.

\* \* \* \*

- 1916 Wed Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>**              Still haying, made small stack. Evans and Arlo helped me.
- Thur 3                        Finished up haying.
- Fri 4                         Hoed in the garden. Very hot.
- Sat 5                         I drove over to Magog this morning. Everline went over with me. Very hot. The thermometer run up to

89 in the shade here. But over to Magog it went up to 93. We had a nice shower tonight.

Sun 6 A lovely cool morning. But warmed up again with a nice breeze.

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> A hot day. I went to Magog in the afternoon. I bought four thousand of cedar shingles off Martin and Wallace<sup>35</sup> at \$3<sup>-</sup> per thousand, so I gave them my check on the Bank of Commerce<sup>36</sup> for \$12.00.

\* \* \* \*

Aug Tues 8 Quite a nice rain today. Much cooler. Ma and I took a little ride, went around past Mitson's, Martin Baird's and Frank Buzzell's. Called to Frank and got Parker Powers' Jack Screw.<sup>37</sup>

Wed 9 We had a big rain last night and it has rained nearly all day today. I have been working around home.

Thur 10 I cut brush in pasture in forenoon. In afternoon I commenced to shingle the wood shed. Dan Buzzell called on us for a little while today. Mrs Jules Regnier called on us this afternoon with little Audrey. Dan Buzzell & wife called today and lots of others.

Fri 11 Nice day. I was shingling the woodshed today. Callers today were AJ Whitehead, Mr. & Mrs Merrick and Milly, Miss Annie Chase, Mr. Boynel, Mrs. Jules Regnier, Mrs. Jos Buzzell. This evening, Master Wilfred Regnier. And several others.

---

<sup>35</sup> The Martin & Wallace Planing Mill, Main St., Magog.

<sup>36</sup> The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Main St., Magog.

<sup>37</sup> A jack screw (also screw jack) is a type of jack operated by turning a leadscrew. It is used for lifting moderate and heavy weights.

**1916 August**


- Sat 12 I finished shingling the east side of woodshed in the forenoon. In the afternoon I went over to Magog and got a \$15 Post Office Order cashed that Leslie sent me. Myself, Urana, Everline and Elma Merry met at Magog today.
- Sun 13 Ma and I were here all day alone. Lucius Buzzell called. This is Urana's birthday: 66 years old today.
- Mon 14 I was shingling in the west side of the woodshed.
- Tues 15 I finished shingling the woodshed. Archie came up today with his automobile. Wilfred Regnier came with him, got here at noon. In the afternoon he went to Magog and at night he brought over all of Moffatt's family; had a little visit, then he took them back. Then Archie came back and stayed with Ma and me. A very nice day.
- Aug Wed 16 Archie went home today, went to Magog and was going to take Mrs. Jules Regnier home with him. This is the last day of 66<sup>th</sup> year that I have lived on this old Earth. Since Archie left here at 10 o'clock, I have mowed my oats down enough for a good man all day.
- Thur 17 This is my birthday: 66 years old today. I went to Magog in forenoon; in afternoon I raked oats. Archie came again this afternoon with his auto, had Rosie and little Moris, and the Goyette girls all called at our house for a little while.
- Fri 18 I put my oats in the barn today. Carl Buzzell and Harvey Catchpaw helped me.
- Sat 19 I shingled closet [outdoor toilet] in forenoon. I went to Magog and met Leslie on the PM train from Montreal. 91 degrees heat today.

Sun 20

Thermometer still at 90 today.

\* \* \* \*

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED<sup>38</sup>

- 
1. When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,  
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;  
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.
  2. On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,  
And the glory of his resurrection share;  
When his chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.
  3. Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun;  
Let us talk of all his wondrous love and care.  
Then when all of life is over and our work on earth is done,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

## Refrain:

When the roll is called up yonder,  
 When the roll is called up yonder,  
 When the roll is called up yonder,  
 When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

\* \* \* \*

---

<sup>38</sup> James Milton Black composed this hymn in 1893. It is readily available on YouTube.



**1916 Aug**

- Mon 21 I took Leslie to Magog this morning to go to Montreal. I took up Leslie's 2 notes at Joe Patient's. I gave him \$30<sup>39</sup> cash. We had a nice little rain this afternoon.
- Tues 22 I was cutting brush today in the pasture.
- Wed 23 I went to Magog in the forenoon. Cut brush in afternoon.
- Thur 24 I was cutting brush in pasture.
- Fri 25 I cut brush today. Got a letter from Leslie today saying that he had lost his watch.
- Sat 26 Cut brush in forenoon and in the afternoon Ma and I went to Magog. Vinnie is not well.

\* \* \* \*

- Sep Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>** James Buzzell called in today for a winder<sup>39</sup> and made us a little visit for an hour. I have been cutting brush this last week.
- Fri 8 Celia Goyette gave us a call this afternoon. I am cutting my corn and pulling beans.
- Sun 10 Levi Richardson died this morning at a little past 2 o'clock. A nice day.
- Mon 11 The Quebec Bridge fell again today, killing 25 men.<sup>40</sup>
- Tues 12 Levi Richardson was buried today. A large procession. The Rev. Mr Roy preached the sermon.

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<sup>39</sup> Farm implement for baling hay.

<sup>40</sup> See <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/quebec-bridge-disaster-feature>

Sat 16 I went to Magog today and crated a sewing machine  
for JB Oliver to send to Margaret Shakespear.

\* \* \* \*

## 1916 Sept

Thur 21<sup>st</sup> Julia has a very bad cold tonight

Sat 23 I went over to Magog to see Vin's children. They are  
sick.

Mon 25 I dug potatoes today. Adie Chase and Ethel Buzzell  
were married today.

Tues 26 I dug potatoes today.

Fri 29 I dug potatoes in forenoon, in the afternoon it rained  
so I didn't pick up the potatoes.

Sat 30 I went to Magog. I killed our little black cow that has  
been lame so long. We had a big rain last night.

Oct Sun 1 A lovely, cool day after a frost last night.

\* \* \* \*

Oct Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> I dug potatoes today. Our mailman did not come  
today.

I went to Magog today. Sold Vin [Vaughan]

9 bush. of potatoes at 85 cts per bushel.

Pd by cash 7.64

Sold Barney Sloan

43½ # of chickens

at 16 cts per lb. 6.96

Full weight of box and chicks 66½

weight of box out 23

43½

Wed 4 I turned the cows in the meadow today. I have been drawing my fodder corn out of the field today. Mrs. John Horen brought Vinnie over today.

Thur 5 I worked for JB Oliver today. Part of the day loading boards and part of the day painting house roof. Mrs. Oliver came from Quebec this morning.

\* \* \* \*

## Oct 1916

Fri 6 I worked around home.

Sat 7 I went to Magog this morning. Done some business with the Corporation.<sup>41</sup>

Got our butter money for the past 2 weeks and pay from Barney Sloan for some chicks.

Archie, Rosie, Audrey, Grant and little Moris came up this afternoon with their auto. Archie and Rosie went over to Magog this evening; the children stayed with Ma and me.

*child's penmanship: Audrey Buzzell Grand Buzzell Morace Buzzell*

Sun 8 A lovely day. Archie and family went home today.

\* \* \* \*

Oct Mon 9<sup>th</sup> I was working around house today. Snow on the mountain this morn for the first time this year.

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<sup>41</sup> At the time, a municipal government was termed a corporation.

- Thur 12 I worked for JB Oliver 8 ½ hours fixing and painting his house roof.
- Fri 13 It rained nearly all day.
- Sat 14 I went over to Magog today, bought a bag of sugar from Vaughan Bros and paid the clerk \$8.00.
- Mon 16 I killed a pig today. AE Sager helped me. Charlie Sager called in the evening. He said he was going out to Iron Hill tomorrow.
- Tues 17 I went to Magog this morning and sold the pig to Albert Lepine.  
It weighed 153 # at 15 cents per \$23.55  
to be paid on Tues 24<sup>th</sup>
- Tues 24 Mrs. Lepine paid me-- \$23.55.
- \* \* \* \*
- Oct Tues 17 It snowed all the afternoon.
- Wed 18 Worked around home.
- Thur 19<sup>th</sup> Working around home.
- Fri 20 I was working in the stable.
- Sat 21 I went to Magog in forenoon. Settled with Vaughan for flour and shorts that I got on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and in the afternoon, Ma and I went out to Ernest Currier's and bought a heifer for \$40.00— forty dollars. I gave him my check.

\* \* \* \*



**Oct 1916**

- Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> A very nice day. I killed our old cow this afternoon. Charles Sager helped me.
- Tues 24 I took the beef over to Lepine this morning. It weighed 483 lbs
- Mrs Lepine paid me for the pig I sold them on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> I had my threshing done today. Wallace Catchapaugh with Charley Fields and George McKelvey jr done the job and got done at 10 AM, had dinner and I paid him \$4.00. Arnold and James McKelvey helped me and I gave them 50 cts each. I had about 25 bushels of oats and barely that at that.
- Thur 26 I was working around home.
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> I worked 8 hours shingling JB Oliver's Boat house (Oliver & Wallace)
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> I finished shingling JB Oliver's Boat house (Oliver & Wallace). I worked 8 hours
- Mon 30<sup>th</sup> I worked down on Quilliams landing rolling logs and cleaning the yard for Prouty and Miller
- Tues 31<sup>st</sup> I went to Magog with my own team and took JB Oliver and went to Oliver Corner and scaled logs and home again called up to Vin's and got a piece of venison.

**Wed Nov 1<sup>st</sup>**

I was working at home

\* \* \* \*

**1916 Nov**

- Thur 2<sup>nd</sup> I went to Magog today and done a little business with town clerk

- Fri 3 At home.
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> I got our fodder corn in today.
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup> A lovely day. A drunk man passed here today  
(Pauly Fortin)
- Mon 6 I was putting wood in the shed
- Tues 7 I went to Magog in forenoon. Sold Vaughan 9 # of  
butter for 40 cts per lb. Bought 2 boxes of shorts at  
1.70 per box. In the afternoon I drew the board out  
of the millpond for Prouty and Miller.
- Wed 8 Charles Sager helped me kill another cow this  
afternoon. A fine day, like summer.
- Thur 9 I took the beef over to Lepine this morning. It  
weighed 522 lbs at 10 cts per lb. He paid me \$25 on  
the 2 cows.

\* \* \* \*

## 1916 Nov

- Fri 10th I went over to Magog today and done a little trading.
- Sat 11<sup>th</sup> A terrible wind this morning with snow. I got my  
young cattle from George Smith today. I went to  
Magog tonight and met Leslie. He came in from  
Montreal tonight on the 7 o'clock.
- [child's writing:]* Sadie Buzzle Nove 12-- 1916
- Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Leslie went up to Bells and got Sadie, brought her  
down here and we had dinner together.
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> I took Leslie to Magog this morning. He went back  
to Montreal today. Joe Fields killed a deer today.
- Tues 14 It snowed about 4 inches last night.

\* \* \* \*

**Nov 1916**

- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> At home.
- Thur 16 I went up to our wood lot in forenoon, in afternoon I went to Magog, let Vaughan have 3 doz eggs and 8 # butter. I got a parcel from Nellie today.
- Fri 17 I went up to our wood lot in forenoon. Snow 4 inches deep.
- Sat 18 I went to Magog this morning and worked for JB Oliver today 8 hours building Porch at south end of his house. It snowed nearly all day.<sup>42</sup>
- Sun 19 Ma and I were married 46 years ago today.
- Mon 20 I went to Magog this morning and worked 8 hours for JB Oliver on his porches.
- Tues 21 I went to Magog again and worked 8 hours for JB Oliver on porch.
- Wed 22 I went to Magog and finished JB Oliver's porch. Worked 8 hours. Some people are using sleighs & some wagons.

\* \* \* \*

**1916 Nov**

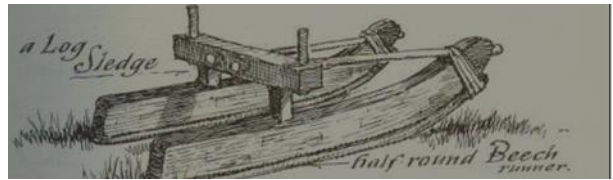
- Thur 23 I went over to Magog and settled up with Vaughan. Got some of the poorest corn and meal I ever saw.
- Fri 24 I was working around home. Very nice day. Warm.
- Sat 25 Cold this morning. I was at home today. Wind blew terrible.

---

<sup>42</sup> JB Oliver lived on Hatley St near the corner of Merry S. in Magog.

Mon 27

I worked at home today making me a sled to draw



wood on.

Tues 28

I went with JB Oliver and scaled logs for Loyd Whittier.

Wed 29

I worked on my wood sled.

Thur 30

In forenoon I took my wood sled up to the lumber road with a wagon. In the afternoon I went down to Franceville and fixed the telephone line.

Our calves slept out tonight.

\* \* \* \*

**Dec Fri 1st**

I went up to our wood lot today and pulled down 2 cords of wood from the top of the hill. A good day, no snow, freezing a little. Our cattle run out all day and came in as full as ticks. Warren Buzzell ploughed today for himself.

Sat 2

I went to Magog this morning. Mr. Lepine paid out \$25<sup>00</sup> more on the beef I sold him. I met Archie on the way over to Magog, so I got back home as soon as possible. Archie had dinner with us, but left here at 3 o'clock for home.

Mon 4

I went up to our wood lot and drew down wood from the hill top. It snowed very hard for a few minutes. The snow is only about  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. deep.



Tues 5<sup>th</sup> I went up to our wood lot and drewed 2 cords of wood down the hill and it rained so I had to come home. No snow at all, in the mud again.

## **Dec 1916**

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> I went to Magog this morning and got Leslie. A lovely morning, no snow. But snowed all the afternoon and evening.

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> I went up to the wood lot and drewed block wood down the hill.

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> I chopped wood up to the wood lot.

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> I went up to the wood lot and skidded wood.

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday Leslie went up and got Sadie, brought her down to dinner. Ground just white a little. I took Les over to Magog tonight so he could go to Montreal tomorrow morning.

Mon 11 I went up to our wood lot today and cut pole wood.

\* \* \* \*

## **Dec 1916**

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> I went again today up to our wood lot and cut wood. Snowed some all day.

Wed 13 Snow about 5 inches deep. I worked around the buildings today

Thur 14 I worked around home today.

Fri 15 I went to Magog with Dave Leney in the sleigh with me and drove to Oliver Corner and scaled logs for Ephram Dion for Prouty & Miller. Went with a sleigh. Just enough snow so we got on OK.

**My old friend Carlos Remick was 80 years old the 11<sup>th</sup> day of last May.**

Sat 16	Stormed hard all day so I stayed in and done the chores.
Mon 18	I killed our pig today. Warren Buzzell helped me. A nice day.
<b>1916 Dec</b>	
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	I went up to our wood lot and made road. Snow about 8 inches deep in the woods.
Wed 20	I worked up to the wood lot in forenoon, in the afternoon I went to Magog and got an express parcel from Les which was for Sadie.
Thur 21	I worked up to the wood lot drawing wood down to the road.
Fri 22	I worked up to the wood lot in forenoon, in the afternoon it stormed very hard. I took Leslie's presents for Sadie up to the schoolhouse and seen them put in the tree. Big snow tonight.
Sat 23	The worst storm and blow for years. The snow piled high.
Sun 24	Roads all blocked up. But opened up so the mailman came over at noon.
Dec Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas. And Ma and I were here all alone all day. Not a soul in the house today, but ourselves. So we enjoyed our pork roast alone.
Tues 26	Roads in bad shape so I stayed at home all day.
Wed 27	I went to Magog today. Sent Leslie a Post Office Order for \$15.00. Went up to Lepine's to get some

money on the beef I sold him long ago, but got none.  
We sent Archie some homemade cheese today.

Thur 28<sup>th</sup>

I drew 3 loads of  
block wood from our  
wood lot today. Snow  
and wind this  
afternoon.



Fri 29

Drawing wood. Good  
day.

Sat 30

I drew wood in forenoon, in the afternoon I drove  
over to Magog.

Sun 31

Ma and I were home alone all day.

\* \* \* \*

## 1917 January

**Mon 1<sup>st</sup>**

This is Ma's birthday. 63 years old today. I have been  
drawing wood today. Snowed a little.

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup>

I went to Magog today, and JB Oliver paid me for  
work I done for him and for Prouty and Miller. Albert  
Lepine paid me \$25 today on beef.

Wed 3

I was drawing wood today.

Thur 4

I was drawing wood today. Everline came in this  
evening.

Fri 5

I was drawing wood this forenoon, and in the  
afternoon I went to Magog in a big storm. But turned  
to a little rain with very heavy wind.

Sat 6

A big wind this morning. Quite a thaw last night, but  
cold this morning.

Sun 7

Another big snowstorm on us today.

\* \* \* \*

**1917 Jan**

- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> A big storm on us today.
- Tues 9 I went down to the landing again today and fixed the landing. Another storm this afternoon.
- Wed 10 I worked at the landing again in the forenoon. Another big storm on, this afternoon and evening.
- Thur 11 I worked down to the landing a while and then went up to the wood lot and got my sled-bob [bob-sled]. Very cold.
- Fri 12 I went down to the landing and worked a while. Only one team drawing. Very cold. We expected the Rev. Mr. Roy over to supper tonight, but it was so cold he did not come.
- Sat 13 I drove over to Magog in a big storm, got some bran at 1.65 per hundred and whole corn at 2.20 per hundred.

\* \* \* \*

**1917 Jan**

- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> I worked down to the landing all day. Very cold and windy.
- Tues 16 I worked on the landing today. I put \$2 in a letter tonight to send to *The Daily Star* tomorrow to renew my subscription for another year.
- Wed 17 I worked down to the landing in the forenoon. We had such a storm and blow, I stayed in the afternoon. My letter went in this morning mail from here for the *Star*.

Thur 18 I worked down to the landing in the forenoon. The storm was terrible. No logs came in today. No road breaking today, the storm was so bad.

Fri 19 The storm stopped. Road Rollers out today.<sup>43</sup> I went over to Magog this afternoon, done a little business with the Town Clerk.



The Rev. Mr. Roy had supper with Ma and me tonight.

*Rev. Mr. Roy* We had a good, short visit.

\* \* \* \*

## 1917 January

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> I worked down to the landing today. Very cold this morning: 32 below 0 this morning.

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> A very good day. Arlo and Dora came in for a while this evening. Another storm commenced tonight at about 5 o'clock.

Mon 22 O my what a storm, this morning, with a terrible wind before noon. I worked down to the landing in forenoon. I opened up the road crost [=across] Noris Baird's land down to the river. Evans Baird drove his horses through it, but all filled up in a little while.

Tues 23 I worked down to the landing all day.

---

<sup>43</sup> "Roadrollers" were used to keep roads open in winter. They were large rollers dragged behind teams of horses and they flattened and packed the snow to allow passage by sleighs.

Wed 24 I worked on the landing.

Thur 25 I worked down to the landing. Quite a lot of green hemlock came in and landed on my flat. Roads very bad. Snow all the time.

### **1917 Jan**

Fri 26<sup>th</sup> I worked on the log landing today. Quite a heavy shock of earthquake was felt around here this afternoon

Sat 27 I worked down to the landing today. Very cold. Roads bad.

Sun 28 A very good day. Wilfred Buzzell came in and had dinner with Ma and me.

Acey [Asa] Buzzell died this morning at 3 o'clock at Charles Buzzell Lumber Camp, with measles, and all the rest has them.

Mon 29 I went to Magog this morning and got Doctor Cabana for our beggar Frenchman that lives in the little house near the spring. Then I done my day's work on the log landing. A terrible storm and wind all afternoon and evening.

### **1917 Jan**

Tues 30<sup>th</sup> I worked in the forenoon down to the log landing. In the afternoon I went to Acey Buzzell's funeral in a big storm and blow. The funeral was up to Charles Buzzell's house. The Rev. Mr. Roy preached the sermon.

Wed 31<sup>st</sup> I worked in the afternoon on the landing. A real nice day. Looks like good weather.

- Feb Thur 1<sup>st</sup>** I worked down to the landing in the afternoon. More snow.
- Fri 2** Candlemas day. Clear and very cold with a very heavy wind, the worst day for years. I went to Magog this forenoon and in the afternoon I worked down to the log landing. JB Oliver paid me today for the work I done on the landing in the month of January.
- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup>** O what a day! Thermometer stood at 28° below at 6 o'clock this morning, with a strong wind from the north. No mail today.



\* \* \* \*

## 1917 Feb

- Sun 4<sup>th</sup>** 6° above zero this morning. Windy all day.
- Mon 5<sup>th</sup>** Alvin Buzzell has pneumonia. I worked down to the landing in the afternoon.
- Tues 6** I worked on the landing all day. Cold and windy. Bad roads.
- Wed 7** I worked down to the landing in the forenoon. Rolled what logs there was and put the landing in order as no logs came in 'till night.
- Thur 8<sup>th</sup>** I worked down to the log landing today. A storm this morning, but turned out to be a real mild, good day. Quite a lot of logs came in today.
- Fri 9** I worked on the landing today. Looked like rain all forenoon, but did not. Turned to a snowstorm & blow.
- Sat 10** O what a day! As bad as any we have had this winter. No stirring. Road all blocked up.

\* \* \* \*

**1917 Feb**

- Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Roads opened up this morning. Alvin Buzzell is worse in camp.
- Mon 12 I worked down to the landing in the forenoon. 30 below zero this morning.
- Tues 13 I worked down to the landing in the forenoon, and in the afternoon I went up to Charles Buzzell's camp to see Alvin Buzzell, who is sick with the pneumonia. I found him very bad off. Don't think he will stand it long.
- Wed 14 I worked down to the log landing in the afternoon. Alvin Buzzell died this morning at 4 o'clock. They brought Alvin out of the woods tonight. Ma and I went up to the house and I helped carry Alvin in the house. They left Cora up to the Camp to stay.
- Thur 15 I worked on the landing in the forenoon.

\* \* \* \*

**1917 Feb**

- Fri 16<sup>th</sup> I worked down to the log landing in the forenoon, and in the afternoon Ma and I attended Alvin Buzzell's funeral up to Charlie's house. The Rev Mr. Roy preached the sermon.
- Sat 17<sup>th</sup> I worked down to the log landing in the forenoon, and in the afternoon I went to Magog. I never, never saw the snow drifts in Magog Village as high as they are now. And the main roads never never so high in my memory. Bessie Mitson came to our house to night to stay while Georgie has the measles. Leslie came



home tonight from Montreal, sick, very bad off with his lungs. I stayed up all night with him.

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> I worked down to the landing all day. A very nice day. Les is pretty sick.

Tues 20 A big storm last night. A rough day. I worked down to the landing.

\* \* \* \*

## 1917 Feb

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> I worked down to the landing today. Very cold. James commenced to draw logs today for TJ Stocks  
Measles, measles, measles everywhere.

Thur 22<sup>nd</sup> I worked down to the landing today. The teams brought in 95 logs tonight. 6 loads. A nice day but cold. Leslie is a lot better today.

Fri 23 I worked down to the landing today. 6 teams hauling. A storm set in tonight.

Sat 24 I worked down to the landing in the forenoon. Sadie came down again today. Visited her papa all day. I took her back off to her Papa's [grandfather's] again.

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> A bad storm on this forenoon, but in the afternoon it turned to fine rain. I worked down to the log landing in the afternoon. No lumber teams worked today.

\* \* \* \*

## 1917 Feb

Tues 27 I worked around home in the forenoon, and in the afternoon I went up to Merrill Whittier's for JB Oliver and found the road terrible bad. Then I took Leslie in and drove up to Charles Buzzell's camp. In the

evening, Arlo Sager and whole family came in for a while. Little Johnnie Beggar boy moved away today.

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> I worked down to the landing all day. Only one team working, but I fixed the landing in good shape.

## END OF ONE YEAR

\* \* \* \*

### 1917 October

Fri 26 A lovely day. I finished banking the house and barn.<sup>44</sup>  
We let our cream go to the factory today for the last time for this season. Julia is sick tonight with a bad headache.

Sat 27 Very busy around home.

Sun 28 A lovely day. Julia is sick today with lame back.

\* \* \* \*

Oct Mon 29 A black day with a little rain, but I cut some siding for the barn. Julia is bad with lame back. Sadie was down today for a little while from school at noon.

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<sup>44</sup> Buildings had little or no insulation. Therefore, in the fall, hay bails would be “banked” around the house and barn to provide some heat retention.

Tues 30<sup>th</sup>      A nasty day. It rained all day pretty hard and commenced to snow a little before dark at 3 o'clock. The ground is as white as winter.

Wed 31      Ground white this morning, but nearly all went off through the day. I sold a fat cow today to George LeFebvre for \$50<sup>-</sup> cash in hand.

## Nov

**Thur 1<sup>st</sup>**      My Dear, Dear wife Julia died this afternoon at 3-30, very sudden, near Alfred Mitson's house. I had been up to our wood lot to handle some wood and when I got home this afternoon she was away down to Everline's and on the way home her heart failed her and she died close to the road. I telegraphed to the girls in Paris, Ont. At once.

Nov Fri 2      Nellie got the message all right and they—Nellie, Rose & Leslie—started and they rode all night last night and arrived in Montreal this morning, but missed the train for Magog, so had to wait over in Montreal all day and only got out to Magog in the evening. Archie met them at the train and brought them over here, got home at 9 o'clock in the evening.<sup>45</sup> I paid Mr. McKenna \$46.00 for casket and hearse.

Sat 3d      A very lonesome day with us.

\* \* \* \*

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<sup>45</sup> Earlier in the year Archie and his family had moved to Magog from Bromptonville.

**1917 Nov**

- Sun 4                      We had Ma's funeral today at 10 o'clock this morning, and we laid our dear, dear and dearest Friend and Mother to rest.
- Mon 5                     I went over to Magog today. I paid Dr. Gurtin \$25 for coming over to see Ma and a certificate.
- Tues 6                    I drove over to Magog again today, went up to Archie. Little Grant is sick. I went down to Arlo Sager's tonight and paid him for his services at Ma's funeral.
- Wed 7                    Around the house. Nellie and Rose is working with us.
- Thur 8                    Choring around the house.
- Fri 9                      I went over to  
Magog.....Bought 4 trunks

\* \* \* \*

**1917 Nov**

- Sun 4<sup>th</sup>                    Our dear loving Mama was laid away in the cold ground today. The funeral was here at the house.
- \* \* \* \*
- Sat 10                    Nellie went over to Magog this morning and started for home tonight.
- Mon 12                   Arlo Sager worked for me today. I have been boxing some stuff to go to Paris. Leslie has been putting up auction notices.
- Tues 13                   I went to Magog today. Sold a fat pig. Seen Mr. Jasmin about Ma's will. Arlo Sager worked for me today, looking over potatoes and helping to get ready

for the auction. Leslie has been fixing up for the auction.

Wed 14 I went over to Magog again today. I sent 3 boxes of beans, peas and butter by express to George Cass at Paris Ont.

Thur 15 Our auction came off today. Nice day, big crowd and good bidding at good prices. John Bryant, Auctioneer. Total sale \$851.00

\* \* \* \*

### 1917 Nov

Thur 15 My auction came off today. A very nice day. A little cloudy in the afternoon. A big crowd and good bidding. Everything went off well, with good prices. Total sale was about \$851.00. Mr. John Bryant was the auctioneer.

Fri 16 I went to Magog this morning with Jane Mitson, done some business with the bank and walked home. This is perhaps the last night I will ever stay in the old home. Rose and myself and Leslie have been working hard tonight to get ready to break up housekeeping tomorrow morning. We will go to Magog tomorrow morning and stay a week. Then we will go to Paris Ont. It don't seem good to leave the old home and dear Julia in the cold ground. But God's will be done. We will submit to it and wait on.

\* \* \* \*

### 1917 Nov

Sat 17 We, I mean myself, Leslie and Rose and her two girls, left the old home this morning at 9 o'clock and came over to Magog. Left the old home alone and

dear Mama in the cold, cold ground. It breaks my heart.

Sunday 18 We again had dinner over to Archie's house today. In the evening I went down to O. Lepine's as it was his 47<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

Mon 19 My dear Julia and I was married 47 years ago today. I have been downtown several times today doing a little business. And this evening Rose was intending to go to North Hatley, but CPR train was late so she did not go. But will go tomorrow noon train.

Tues 20 I was around town today. Les and I went down to the factory this morning. Mr. Donald was kind to us and took us over the mill. Rose and the children went to North Hatley today.

\* \* \* \*

Nov Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Leslie and I went over to Cherry River this morning and got a few things I wanted. Then we went out to the graveyard and bid Dear, Dear Mama good-bye. This afternoon I have been getting ready to start west tomorrow afternoon.

Thur 22 I finished up my business this forenoon and started for Paris this afternoon at 3:48, with a bad ear ache. We arrived in Montreal a 7 o'clock this evening in a snowstorm got some supper and waited until 11 o'clock, then took the Chicago Express for Paris. Got to Toronto at 7 this morning....

Fri 23 ...and Paris at 10:15. Found Nellie and Bob [John's grandson] at the station. Stayed inside the rest of the day, nursing my ear ache.



Sat 24

I am stopping at Nellie's. I went up to Rose's house today for a little while. A lovely day. This evening, George took Nellie & me up to the shell works. ...



**III.**  
**The people in**  
**John Buzzell's life,**  
**1916-1917**

List compiled by  
Alan Albright



01. Bob Baird

Robert Baird, 1883-1930. Born in Scotland, he was a clerk in Magog. He was the spouse of Lena Belle Buzzell (1889-1974). Lena was the grandniece of John Buzzell (Abel / Daniel), the niece of Julia Wilson, and daughter of Janette Wilson and Daniel A. Buzzell.

02. Martin Baird

1865-1939. Nephew of John Buzzell, son of Aurora Buzzell and William H. Baird.

03. Noris [Norace] Baird

1865-1948. Nephew of John Buzzell, son of Aurora Buzzell and William H. Baird.

04. Edgar Bell

1861-1938. Father of Maud Bell, who Julia Wilson and John Buzzell's daughter-in-law. Spouse of Neldora Maud Norton (1870-1950).

05. Maud Bell

1889-1974. Daughter-in-law of John Buzzell and Julia Wilson, spouse of Leslie Buzzell. Daughter of Edgar Bell and Neldora Norton.

06. Anna Bice

1895-1917. Grandniece of John Buzzell (Anna Buzzell and Simeon Powers) and daughter of John H. Bice and Ada L. Powers.

07. Mr Boynel *no information*

08. Will Bowen

1892-1964. Spouse of Christie Eveline Baird, a grandniece of John Buzzell (Aurora Buzzell and William H. Baird) and daughter of Albert Evans Baird and Mary Gould.

09. Acey [Asa Arnie] Buzzell

1878-1917. Grandnephew of John Buzzell (Abel / Charles Curtis), nephew of Julia Wilson and son of Ellen Wilson and Charles Curtis Buzzell.

10. Alvin Buzzell

1881-1917. Grandnephew of John Buzzell (Abel / Edward) and nephew of Julia Wilson. Son of Clemena Wilson and Edward Buzzell.

11. Archie Buzzell

1884-1963. Son of Julia Wilson and John Buzzell and spouse of Rose Louise Goyette. He was the father of Audrey, Grant and Moris [Maurice].

12. Carl [S] Buzzell

1900 - . Great-grandnephew of John Buzzell (Abel / Daniel / Lucius) and grandnephew of Julia Wilson (Janette Wilson and Daniel A. Buzzell). Son of Nellie Hannah Powers and Lucius Buzzell.

13. Charles Curtis Buzzell

1857-1944. Nephew of John Buzzell, son of Hannah Maria Norton and Abel Buzzell.

14. Cora Buzzell

1891-1940. Grandniece of John Buzzell (Abel / Charles C.), niece of Julia Wilson and daughter of Ellen Wilson and Charles C. Buzzell.

15. Dan [Daniel] Buzzell

1854-1944. Nephew of John Buzzell, son of Hannah Maria Norton and Abel Buzzell.

16. Edgar Buzzell

1881-1926. Grandnephew of John Buzzell (Abel / Gardner) and son of Mary Coons and Gardner Buzzell.

17. Ethel Buzzell

1896-1952. Grandniece of John Buzzell (Abel / Charles C.), niece of Julia Wilson and daughter of Ellen Wilson and Charles C. Buzzell.

18. Frank Buzzell

1869-1943. Nephew of John Buzzell and son of Anna Hopps and Myron Buzzell.

19. James Buzzell

1877-1950. Grandnephew of John Buzzell (Abel / Daniel A.), nephew of Julia Wilson and son of Janette Wilson and Daniel A. Buzzell.

20. Leslie [Les] Buzzell

1887-1952. Son of Julia Wilson and John Buzzell. Spouse of Maud Bell and father of Sadie.

21. Lucius Buzzell

1873-1934. Grandnephew of John Buzzell (Abel / Daniel A.) and nephew of Julia Wilson, and son of Janette Wilson and Daniel A. Buzzell.

22. Myron Buzzell

1843-1916. Son of Mary Jane Fuller and Daniel Taylor Buzzell and brother of John Buzzell.

23. Nellie Marie Buzzell

1873-1935. Daughter of Julia Wilson and John Buzzell and spouse of George William McFarlane.

24. Rose Mary Buzzell

1876-1976. Daughter of Julia Wilson and John Buzzell and spouse of George Cass.

25. Sophie Buzzell

1908-2009 grand-daughter of John Buzzell and Julia Wilson, daughter of Leslie Buzzell and Maud Bell.

26. Victor Buzzell

1897- . Great-grandnephew of John Buzzell (Abel / Daniel A. / Lucius) and grandnephew of Julia Wilson. Son of Nellie Powers and Lucius Buzzell.

27. Vin [Lavinia Victoria] Buzzell

1875-1936. Daughter of Julia Wilson and John Buzzell and spouse of John Moffatt.

28. Warren Buzzell

1887-1977. Nephew of John Buzzell and son of Hannah Bronson and Joseph Buzzell.

29. Wilfred [Wilfrid] Buzzell

1900- . Great-Grandnephew of John Buzzell (Abel / Edward / Samuel) and grandnephew of Julia Wilson. Son of Mary Emma Goyette and Samuel Buzzell.

30. Dr Cabana

1877-1963. Dr. Eudore C. Cabana, doctor in Magog.  
<https://www.histoiremagog.com/tag/cabana/>

31. George Cass  
1880-1936. Spouse of Rose Mary Buzzell and son-in-law of Julia Wilson and John Buzzell.
  
32. Harvey A. Catchpaw  
1902-1853. Son of Loretta Richardson and Aaron B. Catchpaw.
  
33. Wallace Catchapaugh [Catchpaw]  
1887-1970. Son of Loretta Richardson and Aaron B. Catchpaw and brother of Harvey.
  
34. Adli [Adlai Stevenson] Chase  
1892-1966. Spouse of Ethel Buzzell (above).
  
35. Annie Chase *no information*
  
36. Ernest Currier  
1860-1968. Farmer in Magog, spouse of Eliza Tibbits.
  
37. Félix Daignault [Daigneault]  
1890- ; lived in Magog Township.
  
38. Allen Deline  
1852-1926. Brother of Julia Wilson's brother-in-law, William Herbert Deline, who married Ida Margaret Wilson.
  
39. Ephram [Éphrem] Dion  
1862- ; resident of Magog Township.
  
40. Mr [Edmond] Donald  
1869- ; civil engineer, Dominion Textile.

41. Joe [Joseph J.] Fields  
1877-1951. Spouse of Mary Ann Whittier.
  
42. Charlie [Charles Arden] Fields  
1898-1976. Son of Joseph J. Fields and Mary Ann Whittier.
  
43. Pauly Fortin *no information*
  
44. Noe [Noë] Gaudreau  
1863-1928. Resident of Magog; brother of Lévi.
  
45. Levi [Lévi] Gaudreau  
1873 -. Resident of Magog; brother of Noë.
  
46. Celia [Marie Exilda] Goyette  
1884-1979. Daughter of Pierre Goyette and Phebe Flavie Stratford and aunt of Rose Louise Goyette.
  
47. E. [Edward Xiste] Goyette  
1871-1938. Son of Pierre Goyette and Phebe Flavie Stratford, uncle of Rose Louise Goyette.
  
48. Dr Gurtin [Guertin]  
1873-1965. Dr. Albert Isidore Guertin, from Magog.  
[https://www.histoiresdecheznous.ca/v2/l-enseignement-a-magog\\_teaching-in-magog/galerie/dr-j-albert-guertin/](https://www.histoiresdecheznous.ca/v2/l-enseignement-a-magog_teaching-in-magog/galerie/dr-j-albert-guertin/)
  
49. Mrs John [Eveline] Horen  
Neighbour of the Moffatts, who resided on Pine St. (*des Pins*). Horen St. in Magog is named for her family.
  
50. Mr Jasmin  
Louis Hector Jasmin, notary public in Magog.

51. Arthur Jemmis [Jenner]  
1896- . A Home Child who arrived from England in 1910.  
Probably worked in the sawmill.
  
52. Dave Leney  
1843-1928. Retired and living in Magog.
  
53. Albert Lepine [Lépine]  
1883- . Butcher in Magog.
  
54. O. [Ovide / Ovil] Lepine [Lépine]  
1870- 1931. Resident of Magog.
  
55. George Mc [McFarlane]  
1873-1971. Spouse of Nellie Buzzell and son-in-law of Julia  
Wilson and John Buzzell.
  
56. George Lefebvre [Lefebvre] *no information*
  
57. George Albert McKelvey, jr  
1899-1951. Son of Vesta Pearl Whittier and John Charles  
McKelvey. Named for his uncle George Albert McKelvey  
(1868-1950).
  
58. [Cedric] Arnold McKelvey  
1909-1933. Son of George A. McKelvey and Lillian Belle  
Pendexter.
  
59. James McKelvey  
1901-1946. Son of Thomas McKelvey and Alice Coupland  
[Copeland].

## 60. Mr McKenna

W.H. McKenna, undertaker, Main St. [rue Principale],  
Magog.

## 61. Mr. &amp; Mrs Merrick and Milly

Elias George Merrick, builder in Magog; Miriam Merrick  
and Mildred (Milly) Merrick.

## 62. Elma [Jane] Merry

1850-1942. Relation by marriage to John Buzzell.

## 63. Alfred Mitson

1857-1940. Spouse of Lillian Belle McKelvey.

## 64. Bessie Mitson

1902-1993. Daughter of Alfred Mitson and Lillian Belle  
McKelvey.

## 65. Georgie [George] Mitson

1905-1947. Son of Alfred Mitson and Lillian Belle  
McKelvey.

## 66. Moffatts

The family of John Moffatt and Vin Buzzell.

## 67. John Moffatt

1872-1955. Spouse of Vin Buzzell.

## 68. Bob Norton

An associate of JB Oliver.

## 69. JB [James Bernard] Oliver

1846-1926. Representative of Prouty and Miller and resident  
of Hatley St, Magog.



70. Joe Patient *no information*

71. Cecil Powers

1881- . Grandnephew of John Buzzell (Anna Buzzell and Simeon Powers), son of Ida Coons and Charles Buzzell. Spouse of Agnes Elizabeth Lena Buzzell (1885-1944), daughter of Olive Powers and Myron Buzzell, and a niece of John Buzzell.

72. Parker Powers

1871-1963. Nephew of John Buzzell and son of Simeon Powers and Anna Buzzell.

73. Erny [Earnest] Quilliams

1899-1972. Grandnephew of John Buzzell (Aurora Buzzell and William H. Baird) and son of Henry M. Quilliams and Sarah Baird.

74. Henry M. Quilliams

1857-1934. Spouse of Sarah Alger Baird, niece of John Buzzell (Aurora Buzzell and William H. Baird). Owner of land for the log landing.

75. Rosie [Rose Louise] Régnier

1887 – . Spouse of Archie Buzzell and daughter-in-law of Julia Wilson and John Buzzell.

76. Mrs Jules Regnier [Régnier]

b. 1867- . Rose Goyette, daughter of Pierre Goyette and Phebe Flavie Stratford. Mother of Rose Louise Régnier.

77. Violet Regnier [Régnier]

b. 1897- . Daughter of Jules Régnier, jr. and Rose Goyette and sister of Rose Louise Régnier.

78. Wilfred Regnier [Wilfrid Régnier]  
b. 1902- . Son of Jules Régnier, jr. and Rose Goyette and brother of Rose Louise Régnier.
79. Don Carlos Remick  
1836-1918. Resident of Oliver Corner [Magog] and spouse of Ida May Oliver, sister of JB Oliver (above).
80. Levi Richardson  
1881-1916. Spouse of John Buzzell's grandniece Cora Buzzell (above).
81. Rev Mr Roy  
Minister of Methodist "new church," Merry North, Magog.
82. AE [Arlo E] Sager  
1869-1921. Nephew of John Buzzell and son of Philena Buzzell and Adam H. Sager.
83. Charlie [Charles Malcolm] Sager  
1856-1923. Nephew of John Buzzell, son of Philena Buzzell and Adam H. Sager and brother of Arlo E and Eveline.
84. Dora [Eldora] [Buzzell] Sager  
1875-1945. Grandniece of John Buzzell (Abel / Gardner) and spouse of Arlo E. Sager. Daughter of Gardner Buzzell and Mary Coons.
85. Everline [Eveline Sager]  
1853-1923. Niece of John Buzzell and daughter of Philena Buzzell and Adam H. Sager, sister of Arlo E. and Charles Sagar.

86. Urania Sager

1850-1935. Niece of John Buzzell, son of Philena Buzzell and Adam H. Sager and brother of Arlo E and Eveline

87. Margaret Shakespear *no information*

88. Barney Sloan

Proprietor of Battle's Hotel in Magog

<http://www.histoiremagog.com/barney-sloan-1875-1939/>

89. Al Smith *no information*

90. Leslie Smith

1883- . Grandnephew of John Buzzell (Myron) and son of Norman Smith and Emma Belle Buzzell.

91. Leslie Smith's wife

1897- . Mentioned this way by John Buzzell. Pearl E. Baird. Grandniece of John Buzzell (Aurora Buzzell and William H. Baird) and daughter of Albert Evans Baird and Mary Gould.

92. Nelson Smith

1858-1929. Spouse of Emma Belle Buzzell, niece of John Buzzell (Myron) and father of Leslie and Oral Smith.

93. Oral Smith

1892- . Grandnephew of John Buzzell (Myron) and son of Norman Smith and Emma Belle Buzzell.

94. TJ [Theodore Joseph] Stocks

1877-1937. Farmer at Brompton Bog, Canton d'Orford.

95. John Sullivan

1866-1946. Spouse of Eva Powers (1876-1961), John Buzzell niece and daughter of Simeon Powers and Anna Buzzell.

96. Harry Traver

1887-1928. Businessman in Magog and spouse of Blanche Pearl Norton, sister of Neldora Norton Bell. They were Maud Bell's aunt and uncle.

97. C.M. [Cedric] Vaughan

Owner of Vaughan Brothers, a flour, feed and grocery business on Main St. [rue Principale], Magog.

98. AJ [Arthur Johnson] Whitehead

1851-1941. Lumberman and resident of Magog.

99. Loyd [Lloyd] Whittier

1893-1967. Son of Merrill Whittier and Jessie Copeland.

100. Merrill [Merrill] Whittier

1866-1948. Son of Lewis Whittier and Harriet Ryder. Farmer in Orford



SOCIÉTÉ  
D'HISTOIRE  
DU CANTON  
D'ORFORD

APRIL 2023