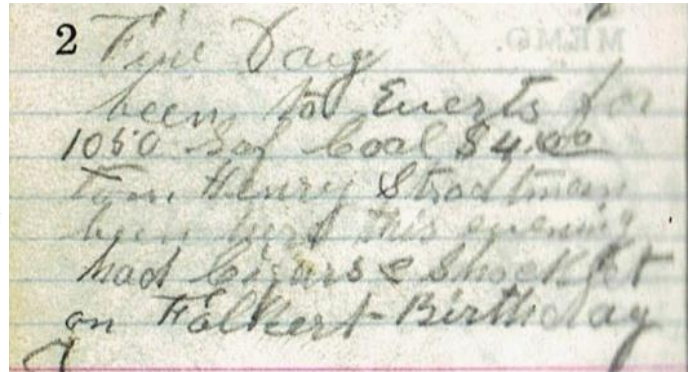
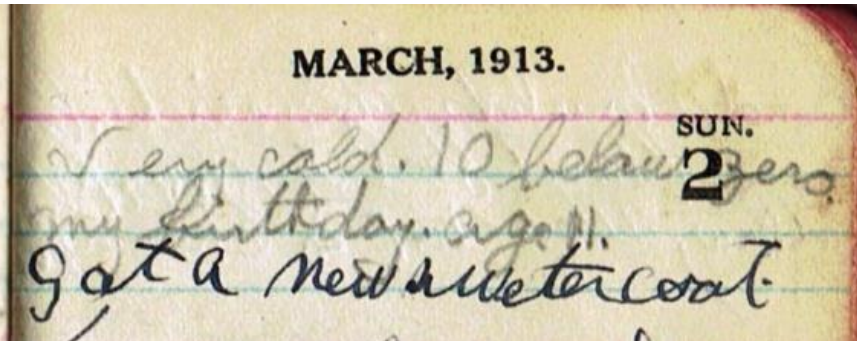


Remembering my dad, Folkert Saaijenga, born March 2, 1902. Even tho birthdays were not quite as big a deal then as they are now, they were still celebrated. The first 2 pictures are from Grampa George Saaijenga's 1910 diary and he talks of having cigars and hot chocolate with the neighbors. (Dad probably didn't get a cigar tho.)

Wednesday, March 2, 1910: Fine day.  
 Been to Everts for 1050 pounds of coal \$4.00 a ton.  
 Henry Strodtmans been here this evening.  
 Had cigars and shocklet on Folkert's birthday.

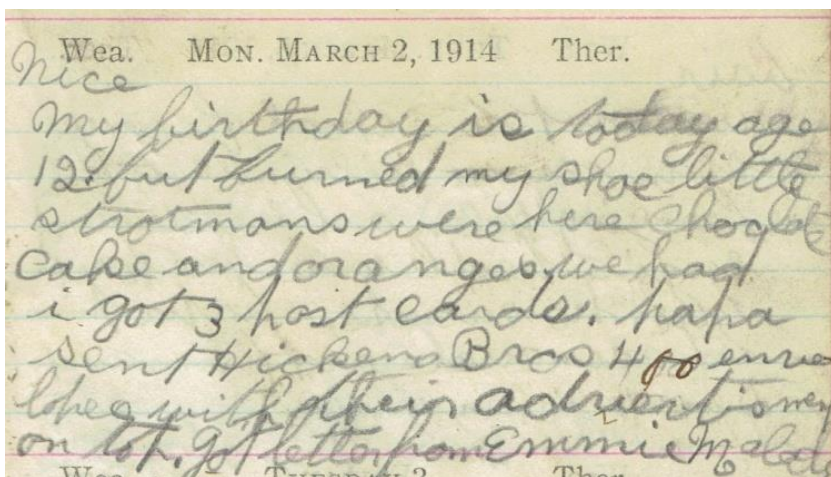


The second 2 pictures are from my dad's 1913 diary and he tells of getting a new sweater for his 11th birthday.



March 2, 1913: very cold.  
 10 below zero.  
 My birthday, age 11.  
 I got a new sweater coat.

The third set of pictures are from Dad's 1914 diary and he tells of burning his shoe on his 12th birthday but all ended well and the family had oranges and chocolate cake for a treat. He also got 3 postcards.



Monday, March 2, 1914: Nice.  
 My birthday is today, age 12 but burned my shoe a little.  
 Stratmans were here.  
 Chocolate cake and oranges we had.  
 I got 3 post cards.  
 Papa sent Hicken Bros. 400 envelopes with their advertisement on top.  
 Got letter from Emmy Malady.

The last 2 pictures are from Grampa George's 1918 diary. The birthday treat that year was again hot chocolate and every family member gave Dad a nickel for his gift. Kids today would be pretty upset if all they got was a nickel from somebody! Dad had 6 siblings by then so he raked in a whopping 40 cents.

1918 Saturday 2, Mar.

Fair health.  
 Mild weather also  
 Salted hogs and  
 Rendered lard also.  
 J. Poppen brought home  
 articles for welding.  
 Folkert's Birthday is to  
 day, we had chocolate  
 and every member gave  
 him a nickel to his birthday.  
 Hilvin brought some of Butch-  
 ering to John Rusken, and  
 some took some to Strodtmans.

Saturday, March 2, 1918: Fair health.

Mild weather also.

Salted hogs and rendered lard also.

J. Poppen brought home articles for welding.

Folkert's birthday is today. We had chocolate  
 and every member gave him a nickel to his  
 birthday.

Hilvin brought some of butchering to John  
 Rusken and Folkert took some to Strodtmans.

Dad has been gone since 1989 but reading these old diaries makes me feel as tho he is still a little boy, all excited about his special day. And he would love the fact that his great granddaughter Abby was born on his 99th birthday. The generations continue on with love.

