

Kansas Memory



Martha Farnsworth diary

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

Martha Farnsworth kept a personal diary from 1882 through 1922 with only a few gaps. The diary describes her daily activities, her first unhappy marriage to Johnny Shaw, her second happy marriage, and her involvement in social and community affairs, primarily in Topeka. Both of Martha's husbands worked for the Post Office. Martha and Fred, (sometimes called Teddy) taught a class of boys at the First Christian Church in Topeka. They continued to teach the same class as the boys grew up and these young men and the girlfriends became a surrogate family. This particular volume covers the years 1917 and 1918 during which a number of the boys in the Sunday School class served in the Army. They frequently gathered at the Farnsworth house and the class took an annual camping trip. There are emotional statements about the "enemy" as well as constant concern about "her boys." Martha did not show her diary to anyone during her lifetime so many of the entries are personal and show her emotions. She, at times, is judgmental of others. Martha was an avid amateur photographer and this diary included references to taking and printing pictures. She also makes reference to traveling by car, meaning a street car. She generally makes a distinction if she is traveling by automobile. A searchable transcription is available under Text Version below. Thanks to volunteer Erica Hare for preparing the transcription.

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Martha Farnsworth diary

1917 - 1918.

World War

RECORD

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JANUARY 1917-

2200 West 10th St. Topeka ¹
_{KAN.}

Mon. I "366" days, have come and gone, and brought us again, to "New Years Day." The young people were with us last night, to see the Old Year out, and the New Year in, and left at 1 o'clock. We went to bed at 2 o'clock and arose at 6:30 this morning. A dense fog, in the early hours, then lifting, the sun shone out, bright and fine and was a beautiful day, but muddy. Walter Polley and young Liebenberger, ran out early this morning and I took a picture of them, with the "Gem Auto grocery delivery" and about 10 o'clock Merle Allton came out for some Victrola Records. Fred home all day, for a rest. I took down Christmas decorations and cleaned up the house this forenoon and the rest of the time, just rested: we had an unusually quiet day and enjoyed it.

This evening, we went to the Orpheum to see Douglas Fairbanks, in "A Matric Maniac".

He is always good, but didn't like his Play so well, and the "Comedy" (?) following it, was simply rotten. We are not "movie" fiends.

The "Old Year" just gone, began badly for us and brought us many months of sorrow, sickness and trouble: my good Taddy so sick, for weeks; yet grew back to health tho' far from robust health of former years, but has been able to make our

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living - and we have "Tithed" conscientiously unto the Lord; The year was rich in blessing too, for Fred's health restored, for my good health all the way thro' and strength to do all required of me. We enjoyed visits from many friends & relatives, my Father being one. One very, very great sorrow was the tragic death, last August, of young Robert Maxwell, one of my lovely Sunday School boys.

And now as I step across the threshold of a New Year, I pray with all my heart, that I may receive Divine guidance and strength to live the days, blameless. O, that I may live my duty to my fellowmen - that I may live without offence, before Him - that I may keep every displeasing thing out of my life, thro' the year.

And I pray God's richest blessing upon my Sunday School Class, who have grown from little fellows, to young men, in my Class - guide them in all their ways, and may they be faithful thro' the year. Billie Badger-Kellogg, Irene Saxon, Charlie Poth, Ernest Shelden, Harry Davis, Clarence Plummer, Don Tay, Ronald McGord, Ralph Davidson, Edwin Jones, Carl Swanson, Robert Swickard, Elbert Starling, Warren Remington, Will Jackson, Arthur Dennis, Robert Williard, Robt. Simpson, Merritte Russell, Merle Allton, Melvern Bibble, Clarke Ellington, and all who have ever been members of the Class.

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Tues. 2 Early morning, very foggy, but clearing, the day became very fine, Fred home again today just to rest, since he is not as strong as he used to be. Mrs. Robt. Maxwell Sr. came over this afternoon and brought me a solid gold bracelet - poor little woman her grief over the death of her son Robt. (one of my S.S. boys) is pitifully, pathetic ^{and} wearing her life out. Warren Remington is a few minutes this evening - wants to go out with a surveying gang - he is dropping S.S. and not doing the best in the world, and its a shame but always to be expected, when a family is indifferent to all things religious, or pertaining to the church.

Wed. 3 A splendidly, beautiful day, Fred went to work this morning ^{and} mail so heavy could not get home to dinner. This afternoon, I went to a meeting of the "Ladies Aux. to Eastern Starrie's", at Mrs. Blanks, 1516 Tyler St., and late getting home too - Fred home first. I wish I liked such things, for the ladies are pleasant, but the meetings, to me, are dry affairs ^{and} I would enjoy myself more at home at work.

Thurs. 4 Heavy fog, dark, gloomy, til nearly noon ^{and} then began to rain. I went to town early to shop, ^{and} pay bills - home at noon, but mail heavy ^{and} Fred did not get home to dinner. I went to Masonic Temple at 3:45 to drill with Eastern Star Officers, ^{and} late home has been a nasty slopping, dark day.

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Fri. 5 A most beautiful day - Fred home to dinner. I swept and cleaned and baked. Made a big "three story," white cocoanut cake, for a Birthday cake as my S.S. Glass is 9 years old today and there was talk of a Party, but thro' a blunder it fell thro', but lest some come, I baked a cake and opened a gallon of sweet cider I had canned and this evening, Robert Williard, Ernest Sheldon^{3d} & Edwin Jones came out, drank most of the cider & ate about half the cake, with Teddy's help, so we had a tiny little Birthday Party.

Sat. 6 Another beautiful day - awfully busy all day - cutout and made a white China silk "Camosole". We went to Eastern Star, tonight, Masonic Temple, Beulah Chapter, of which I am Chaplain. A big crowd. At close Miss Daering showed us pictures of her trip in Africa four years ago.

Sun. 7 A grand day. We took car to Ed from S.S. ^{3d} Church. I only had five boys in Glass this morning Ronald McGord, Edwin Jones, Robt. Williard, Merritt Rowell^{3d} & Arthur Dennis. Merle Alton came in at close of Glass. A bad begining of the New Year but hope will do better. This afternoon, Margaret Rust, Norabell Bowers ^{and} cousin, Mr. Thompson, Charlie Blath, Mora & Carrie Niede, Ronald McGord ^{3d} & Robt. Simpson came out. Had music. I fed them Plum Pudding. Took pictures.

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Mon. 8 The grandest day - like a lovely April day.

I washed ^{and} scrubbed this morning. Mail very heavy but Fred came home to dinner. I cried this afternoon ^{and} so tired tonight, I could scream, but I am not doing it, I'm going to bed early, instead.

Tues. 9 Another splendid day. I went to town early to get some very necessary things - a new house dress and pair of blankets, shirting to make Fred some shirts, table oil-cloth etc. Then right after dinner, I stopped a moment at Mrs. Remington's, on my way to St. Mary's Hospital, where I went to see Mrs. John Porter (wife of Mail Carrier) who has a broken hip - she was very optimistic, very cheery, then into another room of the Hospital, to see Miss Gertrude Gray, who was operated on for appendicitis and doing splendidly, bright as a dollar, then to another room to see Mrs. Chas. Commissari (another Carrier's wife) who is a mother for the third time, with the dearest finest baby boy - she was much more cheery than well. From Hospital I went to see Mrs. Robt. Maxwell Jr. My heart aches for her ^{and} I can speak no word to assuage her grief. Dark when I got home. After supper Herbert ^{and} Dorothy Strickler came to hear the Victrola and later Mrs. Strickler came for them ^{and} to stay awhile for music.

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Wed. 10 Cold, cloudy and very windy. Busy writing all day, as I have many "after Christmas" letters to write and friends were good to me. Poor old "Buffalo Bill" is dead - have seen him many times.

Thurs. 11 Bright and sunny but a cold wind. I went to Masonic Temple this afternoon, to practice with the new Officers and I had learned my part well. Even, Miss Werring, - worthy Matron - who seems never to have a word, but criticism, for anyone, unbent enough to say, "you have a good voice" after she had held the Ritual on me and found I knew my part. Dark when I got home.

Fri. 12 Some more sunshine and pleasanter today. Very busy writing letters. Edwin Jones and Ernest Sheldon came out for the evening - two of my nice boys. What would I do, without my boys!

Sat. 13 A splendid day - busy with all kinds of work and wrote a lot more letters.

Sun. 14 Sunny and bright. We took car to Sunday School then went to Santa Fe depot to see Will and Rue, for a moment, as they passed thru on #5 enroute to Cuba; both, looked fine. I had 11 boys in class this morning. This afternoon Don Fay, Merritte Rowell, Edwin Jones, John Keating

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Ernest Shelden, Ronald McCord, Mona Wiede, ^{Stewart} Carrie Wiede and Dorothy Reddick came out. Kept the Victrola busy all afternoon ^{and} did not hurry home, when evening came, but got to dancing to the music, which I would rather they had not done, because it was Sunday - this dance problem is a big one ^{and} puzzling to handle: the few dance steps these young people took before leaving for Endeavor, what harm did they do, whom did they disturb - They were wholly innocent of any thought of wrong doing - "just opening the valves of the exhaust" as it were: there is so much "stored-up," nervous tension in youth, that there must be an outlet at times, ^{and} this seemed to be one of the times, when it came spontaneously and quietly and I can't possibly see, where any harm was done: it was not a dance at all and no thought of one.

Mon. 15 We awoke this morning to find the ground white with snow - a surprise: not very cold and the sun shone thro' the clouds occasionally, today. I went to Masonic Temple this afternoon, to drill or "practice" with rest of the new officers of O.E.S. Miss Doerring, seemed unusually cranky today and "snappy" toward everyone I got blue mad at me and then found I was right - a new move in our march - Well she has her worries. Home at 6 o'clock. Fred home first, but not home at noon.

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Tues. 16 Snow still on the ground and a few more flakes came falling lazily down, tho the sun shown a wee bit too. Been writing letters all day.

Wed. 17 A fine day with sun shining almost all day.

Had a very pleasant surprise about noon, when Cousin Ira Van Oersdol, came in, had dinner with us and a few hours' visit. He has been in Alaska a great many years, and has not been home for fourteen years - he came from Iditarod and had to walk 560 miles, to get a boat to come out. He has not been well, but looks fine. A handsome fellow. Has some good gold mines in Alaska.

It is lovely to have even a short visit with him.

Atis Young - one of my boys - made a short call this afternoon

Thurs. 18 Some colder, but so bright and sunny. I went to town to "Shop" this afternoon and paid my last bill at "Rae's" which settles our account for Victrola & Records of \$134.25 - a big bill for poor folks, but Q. we have enjoyed the music. At 3:45, I went to Masonic Temple, where we new Officers, drilled "thru" our several parts, again.

My good Teddy, after work, came by for me at 5:30 and we came home together. Miss Daerring was in a pleasanter mood today, and was quite gracious. Chas. Platz & Mrs. Wiede came out this evening and quarreling as they generally are.

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Fri. 19. A pleasant January day - much like April. Very busy all day. This evening about 8:30, the door bell rang and upon going to the door who should I find before me, but Charlie Jenkins of Hinsdale, the husband of my old pal, and schoolmate, Cora Finch. He staid all night with us and we had a pleasant evening visit. Of the memories, the occasional visits of friends, of my youth time, bring up, when they come from the old home.

Sat. 20 Warm, mild as Spring but clouds came and with them this evening, rain - lots of rain. Charlie Jenkins spent the day down town, but came out this evening for Suppernd to stay all night and we had to leave him home alone while we went to Eastern Star. I just had to go because I'm Chaplain and we are all new Officers, just starting in together and were to have some Initiatory work, some prominent visitors from the Legislature and a "Pie Social." I took an Apple pie; We all received many compliments on our good work tonight, tho Miss Derring made a blunder. We initiated Dr. Billingsnd wife, Miss Jenkins and Miss Haddeich. We did not stay to eat Pie - too late.

Sun. 21 Sunnyrd very warm as we took car to S.F. I had boys in Glass. We did not stay for church but took car and went over to 722 Lake St., to see Robert Saickard, one of my boys who has been very

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sick with relapse of Typhoid fever^{and} double pneumonia.
We took him a dozen pink carnations - found
him up, but very weak - must be very careful for some
time. When we left Robert's at 11:45 we found the
wind had changed from wild, to biting cold from the
North West. Charlie Jenkins ate dinner with us
and left about 3 o'clock - he would not go to S.S.
This afternoon Vera Hanna, Don Fay, Ernest Sheller,
Merritte Rorrell & Ronald McCord came out. We
had a quiet evening alone. Very cold tonight.

Mon. 22 Down to zero this morning, so it is cold.
I did a large two weeks' washing and all this
by noon - bright and sunny - fine winter day.

Tues. 23 Another fine sunny day, but old Winter blowing
his breath off of zero weather, so its cold. Ironed
this morning and making a shoulder wrap of white
Eiderdown. This afternoon for Mrs. Jones - Jaresie -

Wed. 24 A fine, sunny day^{and} much warmer. Finished the
wrap, this morning which I'm making as a present for
"Jaresie". Went to town to shop this afternoon, going with
Teddy as he went to P.O. This evening, Mon and Carrie Wiede
Dorothy Reddick, John Keating, Edwin Jones & Ronald McCord
came out and danced until 10 o'clock. Charlie Blath
called me over the phone, frothing mad because Mona
would not wait and come with him, so he did not come.

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Thurs. 25 As bright, fine, sunny, day, as heart could wish.
Awfully busy all day. Washed my hair this afternoon.

Fri. 26 Another most splendid day ^{and} I put in some
mighty hard licks, clearing up this old house, scooping
out the dirt ^{and} letting in the sunshine ^{and} air.

Sat. 27 And still the days are warm, ^{and} beautiful. ^{and} Kansas
has no rival with her blue skies ^{and} golden
sunlight, a plenty, thro' the Winter as well as Summer.
I cut out two new shirt-waists, for Fred today.

Sun. 28 We took car to and from S.S. and church today.
I had 10 boys in class this morning ^{and} three visitors.
This afternoon, Margaret Rust, Carl Swanson, County,
Charlie Plath, Ronald McCord, Edwin Jones ^{and} Ernest Shelden
came out. Mrs. A. E. Jones came back this evening
from McPherson, Ks. and is with us again.

Mon. 29 A fine day - Did my washing this morning ^{and}
this afternoon, Mrs. Jones ^{and} I went to the First
Methodist Church to a meeting of the "Womans
Kansas Day Club." Had an excellent Program ^{and}
all enjoyed it very much. Mrs. J. stayed downtown
until bed-time. Fred's mail very heavy and
not home to dinner, today - poor fellow.
We always enjoy our quiet evenings.

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Tues. 30 Did my ironing this forenoon, and sewed on Fred's shirt-waists this afternoon. Mrs. Jones away this afternoon. Had a colored man here sawing kindling wood most of the day. A grand day. Mrs. Hugh Farmer, gave me some lily bulbs this afternoon.

Wed. 31 Harry Davis called this evening. Turned very cold today - so cold could not snow, tho' it tried hard several times and the wind blew a gale. I was in it an hour or more carrying kindling into the barn, lest it would snow and cover it, making Fred, two new shirt-waists. "Jonesie" away this afternoon. Wind is howling tonight; rough.

February.

Thurs. 1 Well, winter has arrived with a vengeance 12° below, this morning and a very strong wind. Sun shines beautifully from a deep blue sky, and the frost on the windows are some of jack frost's most exquisite patterns and very beautiful. Still working on Fred's shirt waist. Jonesie away most of day and Fred's mail so heavy he did not get home to dinner.

Fri. 2 "Ground Hog" day and the old fellow saw his shadow all day, so we have more winter coming to us. 12° below again this morning. Mrs. Jones away this afternoon. I finished Fred's two shirt waists and 3 new collars. "Jonesie" stayed all night at Mrs. Amos' tonight. Awfully cold.

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Sat. 3 Bright and sunny and warm - warm as a fine April day. But I've been busy today for we are to have a visit tomorrow, from Fred's brother Coit and wife of Omaha. I got many things ready yesterday, but this morning, I made a cake, a Plum-pudding and some Ginger-bread, and did a lot of cleaning, beside my usual work - a few minutes before noon, I went upstairs to work a little while in one of the bed-rooms and found the roof of the front porch burning. I carried water and put out the fire, then called the Fire Dept. to send out a man, to see whether the electric wires were the cause of the fire, as it was directly over the porch-light, but he said fire was caused by sparks from chimney. Mrs. Jones came at noon, had dinner with us and then did my dusting and used her electric sweeper while I cleaned and arranged my beds - we both worked very hard until nearly 5 o'clock, when a man came for her trunk and she moved back to her own home, 1152 Washburn - she rented her house and reserved a room where she will do "lighthouse-keeping." After Supper and the evening work, I took the 7 o'clock car, for Eastern Star meeting at Masonic Temple - Fred went to the Auditorium to "Mid-Winter" and later to the Temple for me. Was an entertainment and refreshments after Star meeting. We only stayed for part of Entertainment then came home. Mr. Edwin Fox was the Entertainer, with stories and jokes.

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FEBRUARY 1917.

Sun. 4 A howling, blizzard-wind this morning and very cold - down to ~~zero~~ but seemed much worse this the sun shone, part of the time. I took car to ^{Ed} from Sunday School, while Fred stayed home to keep the house warm ^{and} to meet Coit ^{and} Angie, when they came. I had ten boys in Class, the largest attendance of any Class present. Mrs. E. V. King ^{and} her Class of girls visited my Class today - all classes doubling, because so cold, very few present. When I got home, Coit ^{and} Angie had arrived - are enroute home to Omaha from a two months' visit in California. We had a most happy visit with them and were so sorry to have them leave for home at 7 o'clock this evening - 7 years, since they were here last. Mr. Joslyn died and left Coit a million dollars we were told by one of the family, but of course Coit would not tell us. Mr. Frank Thompson came out this afternoon to see Coit: were schoolmates Warren Remington, Harry Davis, Ernest Sheldon and Ronald McCord ^{and} Robt. Thompson, my blessed boys, came out this afternoon. I wish Coit could have met all my bunch - they are so fine, so worth while. Harry Davis has come home from Grinnell College ^{and} will attend Washburn this semester and I am so glad. Awfully cold tonight and I am so glad we are alone - hard to keep the house warm ^{and} folks comfortable.

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Mon. 5 A splendid day - warm and sunny. Fred home all day, just to rest. Irene Seiler-Brightler and baby, came in awhile this afternoon. We went to the Orpheum this evening, as guests of "Josie" to see Douglass Fairbanks in "The Americans" and he was splendid - best I ever have seen him. We are all, much stirred up over the trend of affairs with Germany, yet God grant we may not have war!

It seems inconceivable that any People could act as Germany has. I have the blood of many Nations in my veins, but am glad I have no German blood - Germany is a disgrace to the Earth.

Tues. 6 A most splendid day - warm^{ed} sunny - no fire and windows open. Working button holes in Fred's new shirt-waists. Fred went to work this morning again. And still the war-cloud grows biggernd blackernd with all our souls we pray war may be averted.

Wed. 7 A beautiful day, splendidly fine and sunny^{ed}. warm. I went to town this morning, to pay the regular billsnd "Shop" a wee bit. This afternoon I went to a meeting of Letter Carriers' wives, at Mrs. C. Wingett's 410 W-16th St. There were 28 women present and we had a very pleasant afternoon. Mrs. E. Pollard brought me home in her Auto, after the meeting. Teddy & I had a quiet evening together, reading.

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Thurs. 8 Much colder today, tho very bright & sunny. Have been very busy all day, yet accomplished little - I just seemed to "patter around" all day. Some days I just seem to "waste" some how; I guess I get "bewildered" because I have so much to do.

Fri. 9 Another day of "cold and sunshine". Busy too, as could be, all day, and really got something done. We are hearing more and more of War possibilities with brutal, stubborn Germany. God grant we may be spared, the terrible, scourge of War, with any Nation,

Sat. 10 A fine day, for which I'm truly thankful. Got my work done, so that I had all afternoon, in which to study my Sunday School lesson for tomorrow.

Sun. 11 Sunny, but cold. We took car to and from S.S. and church. I only had 8 boys in class yet we stand "Second in percentage" or are tied with Mrs. King's, class of girls for 2nd place. After dinner, I had to go to Masonic Temple, for "Officers drill" in Eastern Star work. Dan Fay, Edwin Jones, Ronald McLord and Merritt Powell were here when I came home and Teddy said others, both boys and girls, had been here. I was sorry to be away.

Mon. 12 A grand day. I washed a big two weeks' washing. I went to Mrs. E. Bridd's this afternoon to a Committee meeting and to church to Teacher's meeting this evening, alone.

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Tues. 13rd Another splendid day. Did my ironing this forenoon and crocheted a lovely white "change" or coin purse, for to be put in our Aux. "grabbag" at our entertainment next week. Edwin Jones, Ernest Sheldon, and Warren Remington came in for the evening, to talk over plans for a S.S. Club Party on 22nd.

Wed. 14 A most splendid day. The sun cannot shine more golden, than in Kansas and Kansas skies are bluer than ever Italy could hope to be. And so we are having a lovely winter. I made a three pocket bag, (called a Chinese puzzle) of silk ribbon today, for Aux. "grabbag," entertainment next week.

To my door, just after dinner, came a poor German girl, selling hand-made lace, to help her widowed mother support the family of six children of which she was eldest. Her story was pitiful, her face honest and pathetic and full of the lines of hardship - she was cold and hungry. I brought her in and warmed her and fed her, and she ate most heartily. I gave her a waist - too small for me - and two aprons, and bought a set of her lace for \$1.50 which I could not afford to do, but her need seemed so much greater than mine and "my sister had asked bread," I could not give her a stone. She was genuinely grateful, for what I had tried to do in my Saviour's name; and too she belonged to my country's enemy, Germany, but I saw only her need.

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Thurs. 15 A blessed day of sunshine, warm and fine. I went to town after dinner to Shop. Bought a Book for graduation present for Luman King. We are giving John Keating a Matrix Opal, stick-pair ^{and} Frances Washburn, a half doz. lovely silk handkerchiefs. I also bought some new records for the Victrola.

"Jonesie" called just before dinner - poor woman is nearly sick and has all kinds of bad luck. Jennie Remington ^{and} Marguerite Birmingham in a moment this evening to use our Phone.

Fri. 16 A winter day in Kansas - Golden sunshine and blue skies, a splendidly beautiful day.

Busy with all sorts of work this morning. This evening we went to High School Graduation exercises, at Auditorium; a number of our young friends graduated, among them, John Keating, one of my fine young men. The exercises were splendid and the whole evening most enjoyable - nothing dragged ^{and} was over, early. Mrs. Jones came in awhile this afternoon.

Sat. 17 A day of "Golden sunshine & blue skies" but it is colder this evening. Have been very busy all day, baking, cleaning etc. This evening we went to Eastern Star - were five initiated ^{and} made us late getting home, but the work was very beautiful.

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Sun. 18 Sunny most of the day, but a raw, chill air.

We took a car to and from S.S. and church. I only had nine boys in class, yet we won second place in the "Goring-cup" contest - but we ought to stand at the head, all the time, if the boys would but get up in the morning: however the boys' parents, are to blame - they take no interest in the boys' religious life.

This afternoon, Robert Willard (nephew of Jero - Champ. Aquilist) Harry Davis, Ernest Shelden, Ronald McGord, Merle Allton, Don Fay, Margaret Rust, Helen Greaser, Lucille Crane, Nancy Boone, ^{and} Cura Farris came out. They played the piano, sang, kept the Victrola busy, laughed and talked & jested one another - occasionally some of them danced a "Fox-trot" or rather "One Step" and played the ukulele: all seemed so very happy, yet I wish they would be content with fine music. I never used to believe in Sunday visiting, but "times" and youngfolks, have changed since I was young folks and now one must open their homes to them, lest they find places not best for them. I took pictures of the bunch. This evening early, Merritt Powell came out awhile and later, Mrs. Will Baker-Dorall and sister, Alma Holz-Baldwin and her son Harold (a real giant) and Dorothy Reddick and Carrie Wiede - Never a breathing spell on Sunday, but it is lovely to have ones' friends come any time, and our Catch-string is out 365 days a year - always glad to share our home with others.

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Mon. 19 Another beautiful day of "gold and blue" and very warm. I have so much ~~on~~ this week, did not wash today. Mail heavy and Fred not home to dinner. I went to town this afternoon to do some shopping - am to give my boys a Washington Birthday Party. We try to be "gay" and happy tho' the world is full of War.

Tues. 20 Very beautiful day again. Mrs. Jones here in the late afternoon. I went over to see Warren Remington a moment just before supper: he blistered a toe ^{2d} and his foot became infected - had doctor - pretty bad foot. The death on the Border, of Maj. Gen. Fred Funston, today, came as a dreadful shock; how can we do without him - the world so badly needs such splendid men at all times and just now, most of all, when all the world is at war. Such a pity he had to go.

Wed. 21 Another splendid day and we are so glad for every moment of sunshine, tho' a little rain would help, for it is getting quite dry. Writing out some games and arranging my program for Party. Edwin Jones came in for the evening - such a splendid young man.

Thurs. 22 "Washington's Birthday" - A splendidly, beautiful day, of sunshine and blue skies: very warm - house open without fire. Fred home in afternoon - half Holiday. I worked hard all day, baking cakes and made five Cherry pies, 4 of which took to Washington Birthday Supper, we Carrier's

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wives, gave for our husbands, at 6:30 this evening in Odd Fellows Hall, 6th Jackson - Fred & I went down at 5 o'clock. Carrier's gave an Entertainment after Supper - a big Supper, a good time, a big crowd - 130 men, women, and children.

Fri. 23 And still another fine day. I swept, cleaned and put up decorations for my Party - used red, white & blue garlands and about six dozen small flags beside two large ones. Slept and rested this afternoon. And tonight we had one of the jolliest, happiest, Parties, we have ever had - games, music on Victrola and Piano, Ouija Board, and some danced. I made the cakes, pink and white layers, with custard filling and frosted white and covered with cocoanut and candied cherries. The brick ice-cream, was white, with pink hatchet in centre - very pretty and very good. Those who came were John Keating, Helen McLean, Ronald McCord, Lucille Crane, Harry Davis, Nancy Boone, Robert Simpson, Helen Louis, Don Faye, Carrie Niede, Edwin Jones, Katherine Hartit, Merle Allton, Bernice Kingsbury, (a grass widow) Roger McKiddy, Eva Haven, three stage, Robt. Williard, Arthur Dennis, and Ernest Shelden, whose "steadies" were sick and out of town, Ed Bell, Lucile Maguire, Arthur Saville, Elinor Eckert, Glenn Williard, Louise Brown, Clarence Towne, Lura Farris, Allen Neely, Alice Rice, and Charles Wilson, and Margaret Rust, a bunch of friends, of the Glass and myself. These young folks seemed so happy tonight, it made the evening very happy for us - we enjoyed them very much.

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Sat. 24 A fine, warm, sunny day and was quite busy cleaning up, after the Party and doing my regular Saturday work - Fred helped me too, for he was home this morning, as "compensatory time" because of working half day, on Washington's Birthday which is a legal Holiday and Carrier's should have the whole day off, and always had it under Republican Admin.

But Postmaster W.C. Rigby is both unpatriotic and stubborn^{ed} contrary - makes Carriers work half of every Holiday, just to be near and show his authority. It is an added expense to the Government, for he is compelled to give them compensatory time.

Sun. 25 Another fine day, almost too warm for wraps!

We took car to, and from, S.S. nd Church. I had 14 boys in Glass, and we had a good lesson. This afternoon Harry Davis, Edwin Jones, Ronald McGord, Don Fay, Robt. Simpson, Melvern Pribble, Lura Farris nd Nancie Boone, came out. And this evening, Robt. Simpson, Helen Lewis, Harry Davis, Helen Gresser, and Ronald McGord nd Helen McCann, came out for the evening - My! How much these young folks get out of life.

Mon. 26 Warm and sunny, but very windy. I had a very large washing, which took me 'til nearly 1 o'clock. My good Teddy home to dinner, today. Have taken cold somehow and don't feel extra good tonight. We set a hen this evening.

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Tues. 27 A fine, sunny day, but a cool wind. Did my large ironing this morning and Warren Remington who has had a bad sore foot - lanced several times and had Doctor number of times - came over this morning and visited with me until noon, while I ironed; now the Doctor forbid his going out yet, but that's "boy" for you.

Just after dinner, Mrs. Willa Day-Monroe, and Mrs. J. D. McFarland, called, and I had a very happy visit with them and just as they left, Mrs. Strickler and Dorothy came. Dorothy stayed after her mother went home then Mrs. Tucker came and as she left, Mrs. S. came back for Dorothy, and as they left, my good Teddy came home. So my day has been exceedingly full and I enjoyed it too. We had a quiet evening alone.

Wed. 28 The last day of February and it is bright and fine as the whole month has been - wonder what March will bring - if it only could bring "World Peace".

The world is so full of suffering, the war so terrible, so brutal; if Germany could only be put in a "mad-house" the rest of the world could bring about Peace, but Germany worse than a raving maniac, treacherous, brutal, deceitful, cannot be "treated" with, and so war must go on, until that nation is crushed. One's heart must ache and break, because of so much suffering to the innocent.

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1917. MARCH.

Thurs. 1st A bright, sunny day ^{and} March, certainly "came in like a Lamb." A very busy day, at various duties. Mail heavy ^{and} my good Teddy not home to dinner. Warren Remington was here most of the forenoon, visiting with me - his foot is very much better. Made a little garden.

Fri. 2nd Another fine day, yet a few flakes of snow have fallen several times today - a real March day. C. Guild, stopped to phone, this afternoon and he smelled so strong of "Booze" that he made the whole house stink - I came near telling him, he did not smell like the "Bone dry" law - he is a man I can't bear!

Sat. 3 A splendid day, but ground was white with snow when we got up this morning - however the sun soon took it off. We went to "Eastern Star," this evening, at Masonic Temple on Jackson St. Had short session, because of a big social to follow, but we did not stay, and so were home before 10 o'clock - good crowd present.

Sun. 4 A fine day tho rather cold, 12° above zero.

Fred went early to see Dr. Gutsinger about his eyes and met me at church. I had 14 bays in Glass. No church, as Bro. Cook was not at all well, so

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after short song service, we were dismissed. Mr. A. W. Kemnyson, was buried this afternoon from our church. This afternoon a bunch of our young folks came out - Ronald McCord, Harry Davis, Merle Allith, Ernest Shelden, Roger McFiddly, Dorsey Tay, Margaret Rust, Helen Greesser, Mora Wiede, Dorothy Reddick, Florence Herren and Carrie Kiede. They sang, played Piano, Victrola and Harry played his ukulele. We had a quiet evening alone. I took pictures of the kids.

Tues. 5th A very cold wind blowing, but sun shone most of day. I washed this forenoon and clothes froze dry. Teddy got home to dinner P.M. at 1 o'clock and surprised me, tho' it took but a moment to reheat chili and cocoa and set him out a good dinner. Mora Wiede and Charlie Plath came out for the evening. Charlie has about made up his mind, he doesn't want to go to China as a Missionary and Mora insists he must - a few months ago, it was "vice-versa". They seemed unusually happy tonight. I went with Mrs. Turner to Mrs. John Dawson's and Mrs. John Marshall's Reception at the Y.W.C.A. this afternoon, and certainly had one big fine time.

Tues. 6 Today has been sunny and warm - a splendid day.

After doing my ironing this morning, I went over and visited with Mrs. Bettis for an hour or so. Her broken knee still hurts her, some.

This afternoon, cousin Ira Van Grodol of Tolstoi Alaska, who is home on a visit, came in to see me and I enjoyed a splendid visit with him - too fine a man to waste his life in Alaska even tho' he has made money there.

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Wed. 7 A most splendid day. I baked lovely bread this morning. Went to town after dinner put \$40. in the Bank of Topeka, then went to Mrs. Myers, 1214 N. 1st Street, North Topeka to a meeting of the Ladies Aux. of Mail Carriers. We had a very pleasant afternoon - about 20 there.

Thurs. 8 The grandest day yet. I worked fast and furious all forenoon and went to a "Thrable Party" this afternoon at Mrs. Henry McAfee's 434 Topeka Ave, given for members of Beulah Chap. C. O. S. by Mrs. McAfee, Mrs. Shumway and Mrs. Deischer. I went in for Mrs. G. W. Schwartz and she and I went together. We had a very happy time. This evening Fred & I, went to the Iris, to see Marguerite Clarke in "Fortunes of Fifi;" the best part of which was a dear, little white dog - best thing of the whole show!

Fri. 9 Warm, windy and dirty - also sunny, that is when the sun could possibly, push a shaft of light thro' the dust. I swept and cleaned the whole house. Mona Wiede came in for the evening. She and Charlie have had a "scrap" and she is terribly "upset," poor kid. They nearly drove me to distraction, with their "scaps" - they ought really to have one great big, row, and quit for good. Jennie Remington came in awhile too. Helped Mona write a note to Charlie, to "make up"

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Stansel.

Sat. 10 A fine day and a busy one for me - I baked and did some mending and made some more gardens. Wind blew fearfully all day and very warm - up to 84°. Charlie called me up, to talk over his troubles with Morna - He got the letter, I helped her write him - he thinks it pretty saucy, but they are to "kissed make up," this evening. After supper, Fred and I, with Morna - by appointment she took car at 8 + Morris that we were on - went to the Y.M.C.A. to see the Basket-ball games - My boys won, 26 to 25 from the 2nd United Presbyterians, in one of the hardest and best games, of Basket-ball that I ever saw played. Ronald McGord, Edwin Jones, Charlie Plat, Leonard Irwin and Harry Davis, were my "winners!" Of course Charlie took Morna home after the game, and "all is well" 'til next scrap.

Sun. 11 A mighty fine day - we took car to and from, S.S. and church - I had 16 boys in Class and we made 1386 per cent, in the cup Contest. Bro. Cook, in his Sermon this morning, asked that all, give one days wages for missions this week, but, very, very few stood up, in answer to his call. I don't see how people could sit still - Fred & I could not, and there were many, who are well to do, in the audience, who turned a deaf ear. This afternoon, Harry Davis, Edwin Jones, Ronald McGord, Merle Allton, Dan Fay, Ernest Sheldren, Roger McKiddy, Margaret Rust, Nancy Boone and Helen Gresser came out. Boys elected Class Officers Jones, Pres. Davis V. Pres. McGord Sec. Fay, Treas. Robt. Willard Sargent-at-Arms. I took pictures of the Branch. And

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after all had gone, we took a street-car, for Shorey and spent the evening with uncle Geo. and aunt Samantha Van Gredol, ^{2d} Cousin Ira Van, who is home on a visit from Iditarod, Alaska - also cousin Bessie Van - Richards, ^{2d} husband and son, of Herington, Kansas. We have had a very happy day and evening.

Mon. 12 A misty, foggy, sprinkly, day, so I dried my washing in the house. Glad for the rain, or indication that rain is coming. Busy all day.

Tues. 13 We had a good little rain last night and a few sprinkles today, but colder tonight. Cousin Ira VanGredol came over this evening to stay all night, and we took him to the Grand theatre to see "Fair ^{2d} Warner," one of the best comedies I ever saw in my life - a scream, from moment the curtain went up, until it went down after the last act - one laughed every moment.

Wed. 14 A splendid day of sunshine. Ira slept late and after an 8:30 Breakfast, we had some Victrola music. He went over to his father's at 10:30 Mrs. Q.E. Jones came to Church at noon, after which we went to town shopping - met Mrs. Arnes, Mrs. Davies ^{2d} Mrs. Stafford ^{2d} the five of us "shopped" with poor success, as is usual, when a bunch of women get together, but we had a jolly visit with one another.

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Thurs. 15 A wee bit sprinkly; sunshine and clouds, ^{and} thunder, and a bit of lightning mixed in ^{and} the day has been "as mad as the typical March Hare". And I have accomplished little with my work, but put in most of day writing out, plans ^{and} lists, of things needed, about the house ^{and} garden. Some days seem a failure.

Fri. 16 Plenty of sunshine, tho' the floating clouds today and the sky is so blue - but a big wind, is blowing cold from the North West, and makes the day disagreeable.

Mrs. M. H. Strickler ^{and} Dorothy came over this morning to show me some, very lovely Photos, just taken, of Dorothy. My work today has been just "odds and ends," but plenty of it.

Sat. 17 Cold but sunny. I swept and cleaned, and baked. Very busy day. This evening, Fred and I went to Eastern Star at Masonic Temple (Beulah #34) Had a fine meeting: Initiations and the work was so beautifully done - the "America" tableau, was especially fine ^{and} splendidly Patriotic. Mabel Niccum-Tulloch ^{and} Mrs. Harris, were the only ones initiated with whom, I was acquainted. We did not stay for "refreshments."

Sun. 18 A fine day, tho' a little cool. We took car to ^{Ed} from S.S. and church. I had 29 boys ^{and} we gained 1st place in the "cup" Contest. This afternoon, Robt. Williard, Flotterren, Harry Davis, Don Fay, Ron McCord, Roger McFiddy, Harold Baldwin, Ernest Sheldon, Merle Allton, Bob Simpson, Carl Swanson, Merritt Russell, Mel Dibble ^{and} Miss Bert came out - Robt. Simpson, Fred Brackett & Ernie Sheldon came this eve.