

Kansas Memory



Martha Farnsworth diary

Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

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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Mon. 19 A beautiful day, tho' most too warm. I went to town this morning, to sign a "cheque" at the Bank, for the Good Government Club, which I had given them and failed to sign, in full - just forgot and it made no end of trouble for them. I did some shopping too, then came home, got dinner for my good Teddy, then went to town again and did some more "shopping" and lost 5 yds. of muslin, or rather failed to take it from the Saleslady, and when I phoned for it later, it had disappeared (?): it's the first time I ever lost anything while "shopping" - not a big loss, but I had struck a bargain.

Tues. 20 "Warm and cold, sunshine and rain" or sort of mist all kinds of March weather - just March, that's all. I made a lot of garden today and have 7 baby chicks to look after - coming Easter chicks. A very busy day. I went over to see Warren this morning - he is sick again.

Wed. 21 A splendidly, beautiful day. "Jonesie" came this morning to make a dress-skirt, for me - blue & cream stripe material, like Poplin: she works slowly and we visited more than we worked, so little was done. Mrs. Hand, (a stranger to me) came in to see about buying our Home, but it is not for sale. A beautiful Tamarix tree was the attraction.

Thurs. 22 A fine day but very windy. "Jonesie" here all day & night. Took us to Orpheum tonight to see Dorothy & Dalton and Chas. Ray, in "Behind the Man," also Modoc Club, Tom Powell in

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Scotch costume, impersonating "Harry Gander" - a bun impersonation - and Dr. Koester in some magic stunts, which were excellent; "Modoc's" acts were fine and the Patriotic stunt, later, by the National Guards. A splendid evening of entertainment, which we all enjoyed, immensely. Rained hard while we were at the Orpheum

Fri. 23 Another beautiful day. "Jonesie" finished my dress-skirt about 2 o'clock P.M. and then went home and I wrote "notes" rest of afternoon to various boys asking them to come to Sunday School. Warren Remington came in this morning; poor kid has been sick - looks bad. Bro. & Sister Cook, in a moment this evening - a tire of their auto, blew out.

Sat. 24 Awfully busy all day, baking, cleaning, etc. We went to the Y.M.C.A. this evening to see the "Finals" played in the Church League, Basket Ball games - My boys were defeated for the cup 29-19 but they had to play under all sorts of handicaps - two of their best players were absent, and several hurt, and they were "fouled"; upon most trivial excuses. An interesting and most exciting game - so sorry the boys lost. Had a colored boy - Edwards working in yard all day: didn't do much.

Sun. 25 A splendid day; and the great "day of days", the end of the "cup contest." And my fine bunch, "won" by 71 points above the nearest competitor. I was proud of them. "Jonesie", Mona Wiede and Dorothy Reddick came to the class as "visitors" to

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help us out, but I had 36 young men, which was enough, without them. We will be presented the "cup" next Sunday. I was certainly proud of the boys for they worked hard and earned the victory but it has made "hard feeling" - some accused me so Mr. Yetter told me, of courting Mrs. McKiddy's Class of girls, as visitors to my Class, which we never dreamed of doing. And beside, the girls did not "visit" our Class. We do not want the "Cup" badly enough to "lie" to get it. The boys and myself, invited young men, where ever we could find one "loose" and worked honestly and hard to win. Mrs. Ring and her class of girls are very sore and have made unkind accusations, yet they did not "play fair" for they went to the First Methodist Church and borrowed a whole class of girls to help defeat my boys. Sixteen girls came over to help them, but it did not defeat us.

This afternoon, we had our house full of young people as usual - a bunch of my boys. Don Tay, John Keating, Edwin Jones, Harry Davis, Ronald McGarst, Ernest Sheldon, Roger McKiddy, Paul White, Morris Powell, Robt. Simpson, Fred Brackett (for the Prodigal has returned) Merle Alton with Miss Fowler (of Kansas City) Margaret Beust and Katherine Hartit. A jolly bunch. Margaret played the piano and all sang. Harry played the ukulele and the boys sang - and they sang fine. We got out the Flag and I took pictures of all.

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Mon. 26 A dark, cloudy, clear, sunny, cold, warm, whippy, whirlie, blowie, snowy, rainy fine day - March day, full of moods: I saw no snow flakes, but others did, and was quite a sprinkle of rain, but my big two weeks washing, dried outdoors in time for me to do all my ironing this afternoon. I finished washing at 12:30 and got a hurried, but good lunch, for my good husband who unexpectedly came home at 12:45. I was just finishing my ironing, when he came home from work this evening. I've certainly "earned my salt" this day and tumble into bed mighty early tonight. Have had many interruptions all day.

Tues. 27 A fine Spring day. Went to town, shopping, this morning. Trimmed me a new "Spring Bonnet" this afternoon, making my new "head gear" cost me 40¢ and it looks fine too! Fred went to a meeting of the Church Board, this evening and I read until he came home at 10:30. The City is begining to hang out, "Old Glory," as a token of Patriotism - I saw many out this morning. I had mine out, Sunday and hung it out today, to stay, until our trouble with Germany is over, but hope no blood will have to be shed, in its defense and pray Germany may soon be crushed.

Wed. 28 A fine sunny day, but strong wind blowing. Very busy with my house work all morning and made garden all afternoon, trimmed trees etc. Out doors whole afternoon; hard work but enjoy it.

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Thurs. 29 Another nice day except for the wind.

I washed my white wool ratiue coat this morning. "Jonesie" here all day and night, making me a white wool ratiue, skirt. She is not well at all and worries much. I'm afraid, she is going into, or has now, tuberculosis. She is so kind, so big-hearted, yet so high tempered and nagging she brings most of her trouble on herself, while laying all the blame, on the "other fellow": naturally she can't see her fault and no one dares tell her where she is to blame

Fri. 30 Hot, O my! and the wind almost a gale. I was out in the wind all morning, repairing a small wire pen, for my little chickens. "Jonesie" here all day and feeling badly, and then the heat too made her feel worse, so she did not finish my skirt. I had cousin Ira VanGorder and Mr. James Herriott and Mrs. Jones here for Supper and to spend the evening and we had a fine time. Mora Wiede and Charlie Platth came in for the evening too - I played a number of Records on the Victrola for them.

Sat. 31 Sunny and much cooler today. Cousin Ira Van who stayed all night, last night, went home this morning at 10:30. I went in to Mrs. Remingtons on an errand after Ira left and visited for an hour. Freda telegraphed from Denver, this morning for \$20.00 to take she and Will to Springfield, Colo. where she says Will has got work. Fred went to P.G. this evening and sent her \$20.00 by registered mail - she may be living to us.

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Sun. 1st Cloudy, cold morning. We took car to Sunday School and Church. I had 15 boys in Glass - Mrs. E. V. King had 14 girls: a bad morning and not many at S.S. One new fellow, Mr. Norris, visited Glass and may become a member. At closing of exercises, David Cusen, who is State Supt. of S.S.'s called my Glass & myself up to the front and presented us, the silver "Loving Cup" which we won in the Attendance Contest, and which was donated for the purpose, by Mr. G. H. Benson of Wakemay out in the "short grass" country. I received many congratulations on our success, but these "contests" are a mistake, for they cause hard feelings. Mrs. King and her class of girls, never came near us, would not even notice us - and are all covered with sore spots. This afternoon, as usual, the young folks took possession of our home: Robt. Simpson, John Keating, Fred Brackett, Harry Davis, Ronald McFard, Verle Alton, Don Fay, Ernest Sheldon, Margaret Rust, Lucille Crane, Nancy Boone, Helen Presser, Mona Wiede, Elma Stewart, Carrie Wiede and Dorothy Reddick. After they left about 6 o'clock, we went over to see Warren Remington, who is quite sick again and at 8 o'clock, the young folks, came in again for the evening: John Keating, Chas. Wilson, Fred Brackett, Harry Davis, Robt. Simpson, Lucille Crane, Margaret Rust, and Nancy Boone. They played the piano awhile and sang, then turned out the lights, raised the window shades to let in the moonlight, seated themselves on the floor

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and all sang, while Harry accompanied them on the ukulele: and they sang splendidly until 10:30 o'clock when they went home - singing hymns, classics and "rag-time". O happy youth so full of joyous life - and I'm glad I can add my "mite" to make them happy. I had very little to make me happy when I was their age, and nothing of pleasure, or to compare with what these young folks have. These young people, bring lots of sunshine into our home. I took pictures of all, this afternoon.

Mon. 2 A fine day and I got my washing out early. My good Teddy did not get home to dinner because of a heavy mail so I laid down to rest awhile, then got up and did my ironing, so that's done.

Tues. 3 Windy, cold and awfully blarie. A poor crippled beggar, came to my door this morning - wants to start a "helvstand" - his tale may be true, of a Paretic mother to support, but there are so many fakes in this world; however I gave him 15¢, all I had and prayed the Lord to bless it, if he was worthy. I have little to give, but cannot turn the "needy" away empty handed. And times will grow worse, since our President has declared war. Too bad, a stronger man could not have been President, then we would not have been in the war; but it must be a part of God's plan, for He tells us "times shall wax worse and worse" and wars & rumors of wars etc, before Christ's 2nd coming. And surely the

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Bible is proving true. I went to town shopping and to pay our usual Bills - Light, Water, Phone and Lodge dues, this afternoon. Very busy getting ready for my Glass Party. Roger McKiddy came out for the evening. He is 17 years old today - one of my new boys.

Wed. 4 Cloudy and blowing up cold. Just awfully busy. Roger McKiddy was here all afternoon - came for a film of picture I took of him, some days ago - of course my work was greatly hindered, but a teacher, especially of boys, to hold them, must always be ready and with her best smile, to entertain them and ready to drop her work, no difference how important it is.

Thurs. 5 Q, so busy - Made three lovely cakes, cooked a chicken and did such a lot of work, for my Party tomorrow night. The day has been so warm, that I took down the Heating Stove and "stored" it away, this afternoon, until next winter.

Fri. 6 A nice day and my! how I had to work and was most thankful, for a nice day. I creamed my chicken this morning and baked 85 graham biscuits, and cleaned the two carpets and rugs, with the vacuum sweeper. This afternoon made 40 whole-wheat, "bread & butter" sandwiches, wrote three doz. pages of Riddles and decorated with flags and got every thing ready for this evening. Poor Warren was over, most of afternoon - looks awfully bad. Arthur Dennis came in for a call at 7 o'clock but did not stay for the Party. Our Party was to celebrate our winning the "Loving Cup" in a 6 months attendance Contest at

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Sunday Schoolnd also an Easter Party. And also its just possible its a "Farewell Party," for my boys, most of whom will enlist for war. And they may be "called" soon. We had a jolly time; ten couplesnd seven "stags!" John Keating, Florence Peterson, Robt. Simpson, Helen Rutledge, Ronald McGord, Atheryn Harriet, Harry Davis, Nancy Boone, Clarence Dowdrie, Laura Farris, Ed. Bell, Eunice Maguire, Glenn Williard, Louise Brown, Will Jackson, Loualma Sellars, Robt. Williard, Flo Herren, Ernest Sheldon, Helen Williamsnd the Stags, Delbert Starling, Robt. Swickard, Walter Norris, Merle Allton, Edwin Jones, Roger McKindy and Fred Brackett. Of course some of them danced a "one step" now and then - we had singing, and both Pianond Victrola music - then I gave them Easter Cards on the back of which, I had written a number of Riddles. I served the refreshments at small tables - in courses, progressively: the girls drew "numbers" to find what table they were to sit at: then drew an oddly cut paper and the young men drew same kind of a paper and hunted about the tables for their "match" and ate first course with her, then at tap of bell they went to next table for next course etc. It made a lot of fun and made them better acquainted - the Stags had to eat alone.

First Course, Bread + Butter Sandwich + deviled egg. 2nd Course, a pickle, cheesend hot graham biscuit. 3rd Course, fruit salad + crackers, 4th Course, Creamed chicken in

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patty shellsnd hot graham biscuit, 5th Course, White coconut custard cakend Brick, Caramel ice cream with white Easter egg in centre. And for drink, hot cocoa.

Edwin Jonesnd Fred Brackett, were my waiters, who did the servingnd were most splendid. The crowd left at 10 min. 'til 12 o'clock. A very jolly affair.

Sat. 7 Rainy, drizzle, cold, cloudynd most disagreeable day, and from 4 o'clock, on, it snowed hard. O my! what a "pig-pen" of a house I had to clean up this morning, but

I gathered up all the dirty dishes from the tables, then washed the tables, folded themnd set them in the hall folded and carried out, the rented chairs, which took until about 9:30. At this time Edwin Jones came out to help me - I did the washingnd Edwin wiped every thing and wrapped upnd put away all extra silver and every extra dish in its place etc. And was most excellent help: no girl could have possibly done better - what a husband, he will make for some girl - hope he finds one, good as he is. After the dishes were washed, he cleaned the rooms, with the vacuum sweeper, and it was almost 12 o'clock, with every thing beautifully cleaned up. I set lunch soon as Teddy came, from last night's "lats" that were left over: after lunch Edwin helped me with dishes again, then we sat by a cheery grate fire rest of afternoon talking over Camp plans for this Fall. He went home at 4 o'clock. O.E.S. tonight but we did not go.

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Sun. 8 Awfully cold, but so bright and sunny - really a fine Easter Day, except for the cold. We took car to and from S.S. and church but had to walk to 6th and Elmwood, to get the car and my left ankle so weak and painful, just almost made me sick - seems cause it. I only had 14 boys in class this morning. This afternoon, Paul White, Roger McFadden, Don Fay, Robt. Simpson, Ronald McGord, Edwin Jones, Ernest Shelden, and Ralph Davidson came out. Katherine Harrington and Margaret Rust came out, for a short call. After supper Don Fay, Robt. Simpson and Edwin Jones came out for the evening and we all sat about the open grate fire of wood and talked of old Camp times, jolly good times - and caught to be, this Fall: just turned out the lights and sat in the glow of the fire-light, and talked and hoped with the intensity of prayer, that war, would not bring its tragedy to separate us and spoil our good times.

Mon. 9 A fine day. I got my washing done and things cleaned up by noon, ate lunch alone as mail was heavy and my good Teddy did not get home at noon. I did my ironing this afternoon. Molla Wiede, Edna Stewart and Dorothy Reddick and Carrie Wiede came in for the evening just as Teddy had gone to bed, so tired, at 8 o'clock.

Tues. 10 Cold morning but a warm windy day. I went in to see Mrs. Bettie and Warren R. this morning. Washed my

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hair - bought 5 Bales Alfalfa \$3.75, and mostly, fooled away much of the day, writing. Fred sprayed the fruit trees this evening.

Wed. 11 Had a nice rain, last night and this morning "sunshine and April showers," to bring forth our gardens, as well as "May flowers." And the Robins, Peewees and the Meadow Larks, with their cheery "Spring o'the year," have all been busy, with their "open air Concerts" in between the "showers," and Springtime, is truly, a joyous time o'the year. Just as "busy as a Bee" all day but did look out at the "sunshine & showers" occasionally and listened to the "Bird concert," as I hurried about.

Thurs. 12 A fine day - an April day in lovely Springtime.

I went to town shopping this morning and got to Warren M. Crosby's Store in time to hear their Patriotic song service - singing was lovely: this store is opened by prayer every morning; and just now they have added a "Patriotic Song Service" because of War. Fred and I, went to the Auditorium, this evening, to see "The House that Jack Built." A, "Safety-first" picture given by the Santa Fe Railroad Co, under the management of Mr. Isaiah Hale; Don Fay, one of my dandy boys gave us tickets. Well the picture was certainly full of thrills - to me, a horrible picture; one full of the most terrible deaths - I had to continually close my eyes, or look away, so not to be killed, myself, by the terrible sights: it certainly showed some awful careless people - unbelievable.

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Fri. 13 Quite cool and some frost this morning. Had some more rain last night. More than busy today. Baked some of the finest bread - delicious.

Sat. 14 Warm and fine. Found our "Paxie" cow with a nice heifer calf, when we got up this morning a very dark red, with few white spots. I cleaned the whole house today and then went out into the yard and set out a Pear tree, some Grape vines, rose bushes, Peonies and Bleeding Heart. Worked all day, until my good Teddy got home this evening, so a good hot bath and bed early.

Sunday 15 Cold all day and quite a rain this morning. We took car, to S.S. and return - had no church services because of the cold and no gas, to warm the church. I had 9 boys in class. This afternoon, Paul White and Don Fay, Roger McFiddy, Edwin Jones, Harry Davis, Robert Simpson and Ronald McCord came out, and this evening Harry Davis with Nancy Boone, Ronald McCord with Kathryn Harriet, Robt. Simpson with Adelaide Taylor, Don Fay and Paul White, came in for the evening. We had music on Piano, Victrola and ukulele and singing. We built up a big, rousing fire in the grate turned out the lights and sat in the cheery glow of the firelight and had a very happy evening.

Mon. 16 Cloudy, dark, day. Washed and ironed both today - Teddy not home to dinner. Cousin Ira Van Gorder, came over this afternoon to bid

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me goodbye, as he starts back to Alaska tomorrow. He lives at Tolstoi: has been successful in gold mining. Mrs. L. Remington came in awhile this afternoon.

Tues. 17 Cool, cloudy, and showery part of the day - had good rain last night. Wrote letters most of the day. We were so hungry for milk, we "robbed the calf" and had some fine milk for breakfast - my! but it was good.

Wed. 18 Another shower last night, but dry enough to work in the garden this evening. Wrote more letters today. And now our neighbors are hungry for milk and Odanna's ^{3d} Kelley's came for milk this evening. Will sell for 8¢ qt. this summer, as feed is so high.

Thurs. 19 Cool, cloudy, damp. I bought and set out 2 doz. tomato plants today. This evening, John Keating, Edwin Jones, Bob Simpson, came out to borrow some of our Victrola Records. Charlie Platz ^{3d} and Mara Wiede also came out for the evening and gave us their photos; the top of my piano, is a "Photo Gallery." But how I do love every picture - seems like my own children.

Fri. 20 Cool and showery - and awfully windy, and so much like a "freeze" tonight, I covered my tomato plants - laid them down and covered them with dirt. Did "mending" all afternoon. Most busy day.

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Sat. 21 A most beautiful day - all golden sunshine and the air perfumed by many blossoms. I was most awfully busy, cleaning the whole house, yet took time to go out into the sunshine and look at the splendid beauty, of an exquisite April day, and to gather a great bouquet of fragrant blossoms, put them in a box and mail them to an invalid, (W.C. Powell of St. Peter, Minn. (a "third" cousin), for the cold of the North keeps back the blossoms 'til long after they come to us. I put in the box, White flowering Almond, Bridal Wreath Crabapple and Plum blossoms, all beautifully snow-white then a branch from the Red-bud, and large clusters of purple and white Lilac, Yellow flowering Currant and blossoms of the modest little blue violet and many blue blossoms of Myrtle - such a lovely Bouquet.

Sold our calf today, for \$18. so now we will have lots of milk and butter. The Brown Thrashers are back, for I heard one singing this morning.

My good husband and I went to Eastern Star this evening, Beulah Chapter #34. I am Chaplain. We initiated 12 Candidates; we got last car home.

Sun. 22 A fine day, tho' a little warm. We took ^{etc} to Sunday School, but were tired and sleepy, from being up so late last night, so did not stay to church. We had our dinner and got a short nap and rest before my bunch of boys came out. John Keating Ernest Shelden and

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Harry & Davis, who played "hooky" from S.S. to go fishing stopped in, on their way home, tired, dirty, hungry and "fishless" as they deserved to be: naughty boys. I gave them "milk & crackers" to "stay" there until they got home. Paul White, Don Fay, Roger McFiddy, Fred Brackett, Robt. Simpson, Nancy Boone, and Margaret Rust, also came out this afternoon. Today was Nancy's Birthday. This evening, Eddie Jones, John Keating, Don Fay, Paul White, Fred Brackett with Nan Coborn, Robt. Simpson with Adelaide Taylor, Ronald McCord with Lucille McGuire, and Harry & Davis with Nancy Boone, came out. Harry brought his "ukulele" and all sang and sure was fine - all sat out on their porch awhile and sang and the neighbors heard some mighty good singing. They are a great bunch of young folks. I took pictures of the kids this afternoon.

Mon. 23 A splendid day. Harry Davis is 19 today. I got my big washing out early and all cleaned up before noon. After dinner I went out and worked in the garden planting, Lettuce, Radishes, Chard, Cucumber, Beets, Tomatoes and Onions, then I came in the house and did my ironing, so this is another day, I earned my salt.

Tues. 24 A fine day tho' warm, and its my good Teddy's Birthday - he is 51, so I got him up to a dandy dinner. I made him a lovely cake - a white cream - and made him a cream pie - put candles on his cake, lighted them, and carried it in and set before him, and cooked

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him ever so many good things. This evening, just as Teddy went up to take his bath, John Keating, Robt. Simpson, Wm. Fay, and Edwin Jones came out. I gave them some of Teddy's Birthday cake. Wind has blown fearfully today. I took a big bouquet of Lilacs this afternoon and then gathered another bouquet of them and took them over to Mrs. C. J. Gould. I washed windows and did a lot of work today and am tired tonight.

Wed. 25 A splendidly beautiful day, tho' a little cool. This afternoon I went to call on Mrs. Alva Holz-Baldwin, at 1122 Tyler, and from there to town, shopping and got home at 6 o'clock and found at my front door, a great bouquet of pink and white carnations - fifty of them - and a great, large, potted Sultana, all from my blessed, S.S. class of boys for my Birthday tomorrow. I wanted my good Teddy to take me to a picture show tonight but by time supper was over and other work done, it was too late and while I was washing supper dishes, I heard Teddy give a "yell" from the Barn, and at same time, "steps" as of a mighty Army coming up on the front porch and before I could get to the door, the hall was full of a jolly bunch of young folks, all swarming about me, and I could not imagine what it was all about. I was just too surprised to realize it was a surprise on me, by my dear blessed boys and their girl friends, in honor of my fiftieth Birthday tomorrow. I simply was dazed; but

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Of what a happy evening. Mrs. Geo. Q. Boone (mother of Nancy) and Mrs. Ida Harriet came along with the bunch. Mrs. Boone brought a "salt & pepper" set, hand painted China, her own work and Mrs. Harriet (mother of Kathryn) made the Birthday cake - Angel food, pink icing and pink candles. Kathryn Harriet, brought me a silver, rose vase, and Margaret Rust, gave me a very dainty, pretty, handkerchief, with her card, upon which she had written "I love you", a blessed little message, just a part of Margaret herself. The "Bunch" brought a fine lunch, with them, of Salad, Sandwiches, Pickles and Olives, Brisk, ice-cream (pink & white) with assorted fancy wafers; brought lemons and sugar and made Lemonade - I did all the work of serving, and washed up all dishes afterwards. I was simply their 50 year old guest and treated like a "Queen". I phoned for Mr. E. H. King to come out and take Flashlight pictures.

Not all of the Glass came, but those who were here, were - Robert Simpson with Adelaide Taylor, Edwin Jones, Lucille Crane, Ed Bell, Kathryn Harriet, Bob Williard, Clare Howe, Clarence Dourie, Patty (Laura) Farris, Chas. Peth, Mona Niede, Fred Brackett, Nan Osborn, Harry Davis, Nancy Boone, John Seating, Florence Peterson, Ronald McGord, Eleanor Eckert, Ernest Sheldon, Helen Williams, Don Fay, Merle Allton and Margaret Rust, Mrs. Geo. Q. Boone & Mrs. Ida Ann Harriet. Robert Simpson and Margaret Rust, Lucille Crane and several others, furnished piano music - everybody sang and everybody played the Victrola. Harry Davis played ukulele and boys all sang and so I've had my happiest Birthday.

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Thurs. 26 Cold today, and has rained all day and every one is happy because of the abundance of rain.

Today, I am fifty years young. This is the happiest Birthday, I have never had - because of the very lovely "surprise" Party, my dear, blessed, Sunday School class of boys gave me last night. Life, cannot, but be worth living when one has such splendid young friends: God bless them every one and make all their years happy and worth while. "Jonesie" (Mrs. A. E. Jones) came this morning for the day and it is raining so hard tonight, she will stay all night with us. Mr. Henderson here this morning to fix a window for us - the frame had rotted out.

Fri. 27 A cold, misty rain, has fallen all day and it rained very hard all thro' last night - our first good rain, in many months and was badly needed, so the more appreciated. Mrs. Jones went home after dinner, today. Poor "Jonesie" she is so bitter, toward so many people, she makes life more miserable for herself. She is so good, yet has many faults.

Sat. 28 Cold, dark, gloomy mist and rain all day.

Cousin Vera Van Gersdorff (Mrs. Frank Van) phoned me from Menoken, at 8 o'clock this morning, to tell me, my Cousin Maude Howard-Godwin, wife of Charlie Godwin, Menoken died of heart failure, about 5 o'clock this morning - has been in perfect health, but yesterday complained of feeling tired and wanted to rest, but said was not sick.

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Sun. 29 Cold & cloudy all day, but the showers did not come until noon, & the sun shone, for a moment, as we started to Sunday School & again late in afternoon.

We took car, to & from S.S. & church. I had 13 boys in class. Harry Davis, one of my lovely boys, sang in the choir & also in a young men's Quartette, this morning, at church, and everyone enjoyed it, very much. This afternoon, Edwin Jones, John Keating, Paul White, "Bob Robert" Simpson, Ronald McLeod, Fred Brackett & Don Fay, came out, & all came out again this evening except Don Fay. "Bob Robert" brought Nancy Boone, John Keating, brought Florence Peterson & Harry Davis came out with Adelaide Taylor. Ernest Sheldren & Helen Williams were out also, for a short call. They have played and sang all afternoon and evening, and seem never to weary. First they are at the piano, then the Victrola & then "Ukulele". We enjoy young folks & I wish others did, at least well enough, to open their homes to them, for then there would not be so many young men in the pool rooms nor so many young girls in the Parks & "out-of-the-way" corners of the City. Ed Jones, said to me, this evening, "Mrs. Farnsworth what would us young folks do, if you would not let us come out here"? And that is the great "Problem" - the "young folks" problem & its a most serious one. I took pictures of Don Fay & Fred Brackett, this afternoon, by Gilchrist.

Mon. 30 Cold & raining most of day, tho' sun came out awhile this afternoon. Cousin Maude Godwin, was buried this afternoon at Prairie Home - too stormy for me to go. She was dear & sweet & good.

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Tues. 1st A most splendid day - all bright sunshine and crisp, invigorating atmosphere; and the air full of the melody of song-birds. I washed and ironed, both, today. Teddy's mail so heavy, he could not get home to dinner.

Wed. 2 Again today, the skies are weeping - a cold rain all morning and heavy, chill clouds and atmosphere all afternoon, tho' for few moments the sun shone. Today is 23rd Wedding Anniversary of my good, Teddy & I - and we have had never a quarrel thro' all the years; just been glad thro' the years; for always Fred is good and kind and gentle and patient. The Ladies Aux. to the Mail Carriers "Branch", met with me this afternoon, Mrs. Egard & Mrs. Titterington, Hostesses with me. Mrs. Titterington sent a chocolate cake but did not come. Mrs. Egard came and brought a lovely Burnt Sugar Cake. I furnished pink & white, Brick, icecream. Those who came were Mrs. McHerney, Mrs. E. Wiede, Mrs. G. Summers, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. E. Briddy, Mrs. W. Swickard, Mrs. Botter, Mrs. J. Bauer, Mrs. G. Boat and little daughter, Mrs. Hilgimer, Mrs. Supple, Mrs. Gertler, Mrs. Blank, Mrs. Murro and little son, Miss Hazel Boat Mrs. E. Dillard and Mrs. Egard. I kept a glowering, wood fire, burning in the grate so, we were cozy and warm, and we all had a pleasant afternoon visit together - there was very little business to transact so we just visited. So much war talk, one doesn't feel like business

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Thurs. 3rd Very cold all day, and rained some. This evening we went to the Grand Opera House to see a wonderful picture, "Intolerance". To me, much of it, seemed to be antagonistic, to all good efforts - and this of course, I did not like. Some of it showed the "Horror" of ancient times and this I neither liked, nor saw the good of its reproduction, but it was a magnificent thing, tho' it made one very tired. Cyrus, King of Persia, taking Babylon was a terrible thing and terrible on ones nerves, tho' grand in awfulness. Going down town, we met a very bright & interesting little, lad and we took him to the "Show" with us - we had never met him before but his bright, pretty face and ladylike manner attracted us and we got into conversation with him - found he had very much wanted to see the picture and was a brother of a Miss Gertrude Thompson, whom we knew slightly - he belonged to the "Boy Scouts". He enjoyed the Picture, very much, tho' got tired & sleepy.

Fri. 4 Some more cold and rain. I was very busy all day - I never seem to keep ahead of my work.

Sat. 5 Bright and sunny but cold. And a heavy frost and freeze killed lots of garden last night. Beans, corn and tomatoes all gone and surely fruit. We went to "Bullock Chapter #34, A.E.S." this evening. Had a fine entertainment by children after the meeting. Mrs. Squires got it up.

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Sun. 6 A bright fine day. We took car to and from S.S. 2nd Church. I had 14 boys in class: and they told me that R.B. Nelson, one of our Deacons, was leaving for Chicago, because he had stolen some ten or fifteen thousand dollars from his employer Mr. Hall. I told Mrs. Pardel Have, hoping she would tell her husband, a member of the Church Board, and he would take it up, for the Church plans a big farewell Reception for he and his wife, not knowing what he has done. This afternoon, Roger McKiddy, Ronald McGord, Harry Davis, Ernest Shelden, Fred Brackett, Don Fay, Paul White, Robert Simpson, Margaret Rust and Lucille Crane came out, also Warren Remington was here awhile. This evening, John Keating, Ernest Shelden, Don Fay, Edwin Jones, Harry Davis, Robert Simpson with Miss Sicily Allison and Ronald McGord with Adelaide Taylor came in for the evening and we had the usual good time with much music on various instruments.

Mon. 7 A most splendid day - sunny cool and fine.

I washed, ironed, cleaned and made garden. Mr. H. Moreland of the Church Board, came in before Breakfast this morning, to see what I knew of the "Nelson affair" as the charge is so serious they wanted to run it down and see if true. Fred did not get home to dinner, but told me this evening the Church found R.B. Nelson a thief - he has confessed.

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Tues. 8 Another fine day - warm and sunny. I went to town this morning to pay the usual first of Month, Bills. Tinted a Birthday, "Flash" group picture of my surprise Party, this afternoon to send Freda. Don Day, Edwin Jones, Warren Remington and Robt. Simpson came in for the evening. I have mighty fine boys!

Wed. 9 Cloudy and cool all day, and a wee sprinkle o' rain. Mr. Isenhower, here painting our house. Mrs. A. E. Jones, came for supper and to go to the "Show" with us, at the Grand, to see Annette Kellerman, in a "Daughter of the Gods." I thought it horrid, tho there were many beautiful "scenes of scenery" and Annette is lovely, my!

Thurs. 10 Cool and "showery". I went to Good Government Club, at U. W. this afternoon, expecting to get some new points, on Canning vegetables, as it was announced Miss Broughton of State "Aggy" School Manhattan, would lecture on the "subject" - she did not come however, and I was asked to take her place: I gave my own personal experience. Mrs. Main a "Socialist" read a Paper on war subjects, which so criticized the Government that she almost started a war! What a pity anyone will denounce our President at such a time as this. Harry Davis, Robt. Simpson, Edwin & Robert Jones, and Roger McFiddy, came out this evening: borrowed 3 of our Victrola Records.

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Fri. 11 Still too cool for good garden growing. Been very busy all day. House is looking good with new paint. "Gossipied" over the fence with Mrs. G. Gould this morning over Roland B. Nelson of our church, who is a thief.

Sat. 12 A fine day - very busy with my Saturday work and sewing - baked the loveliest Bread: and today I have accomplished much, with my hard work and so a good hot bath and into bed, for tomorrow is Sunday.

Sun. 13 A beautiful day. We took car to Sunday School and Church. I only had eleven boys, in Glass. After dinner Edwin Jones, Roger McFiddy, John Keating, Ronald McCord Harry Davis, Don Fay, Fred Brackett, Warren Remington, and Robt. Simpson, came out and I took pictures of all (but Ron & Harry who did not come in time) in line, with flags, and single of Warren, Robt., & John. Later, Kathryn Hamit with Homer Ogle and Nancy Boone with Floyd Flynn, came out for short call and this evening, Don Fay, Harry Davis, with Adelaide Taylor and Merle Allton with Miss Kunkle, came in for the evening.

Mon. 14 A fine day all sunshine. I washed, mopped, churned, cleaned up the kitchen, got lunch, then with Fred, as he went to P.Q. I took same car and went to "Grooby Bros.", and helped the Red Cross make bandages, operating sheets, etc. for the War. Came home at 5:30, brought in my clothes, got

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Supper, milked the cow, then took car to the church to "Teacher's Meeting." Dr. Isermann with Edith Robertson, brought me home in his Auto.

Edwin Jones, John Keating and Robt. Simpson were here when I came home and visited with us awhile longer. A strenuous day's work.

Tues. 15 A fine day, but I could not get any "work" into it, neither get out into the open to enjoy it. Just put in a day "pottering" around. Mr. Eisenhower is painting our house and changing its looks very much.

Wed. 16 Another splendid day. I went to the First Baptist Church, this afternoon, at the request of Mrs. A. H. Horton, to talk to the Ladies Aid Society, on "Canning Vegetables" - to give them my own personal experiences, which have been most successful. And I had a very pleasant surprise - a woman in the audience, whose face reminded me of some one I had known, sometime, some where, away back in the years, and who asked many "questions" came forward after the meeting and asked if I had ever been Mattie Van Gorder and of course I had, but I did not recognise her and she had to tell me, she was Eva Sterns (Mrs. George Irwin) of Floral near Winfield - I've known her always, but not seen her for thirty years. We had a jolly good visit for a few minutes.

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Thurs. 17 Such a splendid day of sunshine - I've been very busy all day too - but I got out in the yard and garden awhile, because the birds were having C, such a "concert," I had to see what it was all about, and I found the day full of golden sunshine. Nancy Boone, Kathryn Harriet and her mother came out for a short call, this afternoon.

Fri. 18 Another lovely day, tho' most too much wind.. I swept and cleaned the house from top to bottom. Mr. Isenbauer finished painting the house today and it looks fine - cost us \$65.00 and Mr. C. Goddington, charges much more because he is in the union, which believes in robbing people - Goddington wanted to paint our house and said would do it, for \$135.00, just \$70.00 higher than Mr. Isenbauer - he didn't get the job.
Began taking ice today.

Sat. 19 A fine day tho' windy and quite warm. The Wrens, the Oriole's and the Mocking Birds are singing their heads off, today. Very busy all day. Not a moment to rest. We went to a meeting of "Buehla," (C.E.S.) this evening. There were six initiated and quite a crowd present. Got home at mid night.

Sun. 20 Quite warm - and more rain than sunshine. We took car to S.S. but were so tired, did

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not stay for church - were caught in rain coming home
Only had seven boys in class - a shame; no wonder
the world is so full of trouble - the whole
country neglecting to come together in God's House.

This afternoon, John Keating, Edwin Jones,
Ernest Shelden, Harry Davis, Warren Remington,
Roger McFiddy, Don Fay, Clarke Ellington, Ruth Simpson
and Charlie Peth were out. I took Clarke's picture.
This evening, Mrs. Alma Holz Baldwin and Harold,
and Harry Davis and Adelaide Taylor came, and we
had such a hard rain, no one else could come
and they could not go home, until almost 11 o'clock -
there was hail and much lightning with the rain.

Mon. 21 Rained hard, almost all day. I washed
a very large washing, all of which I dried in
the kitchen. My good husband did not get home
to dinner, so I ate a few bites of lunch and kept working.

Tues. 22 Cloudy, sprinkly, and unpleasant. I did my ironing
and much other work today - always busy.

Wed. 23 A nice day, tho' cool. Busy with many
household duties. This afternoon Mora Wiede and
Dorothy Reddick came in for a short call.

Our garden is fine, can't begin to use our onions
radishes, lettuce, spinach and asparagus have so much.
We went to the Orpheum tonight with Mrs.

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A. E. Jones, to see Gahan, in "Broadway Jones"
and we liked him almost as well
as Douglas Fairbanks, of whom he reminded us.

Thurs. 24 A fine day - splendid. I went to town
this morning to see about buying some
sort of a stove - and bought at D. O. H. Forbes
Hardware Store, a "Puritan", Oil stove, #22 for
\$9.80 - it did fine "in demonstration" and I
believe I will like it. After a few other purchases
I came home, got dinner, did up my work and
went back to town, to meet "Josie" (Mrs. A. E. Jones)
at 5th & the Ave, and went with her to the Court House
where we met her lawyer Judge Schuch and went
into Judge Dana's Court (1st District) and
she got a divorce from A. E. Jones, I being
her only witness - she obtained her divorce
at 3 o'clock, the judge making an "emergency case"
of it. She got it under abandonment charges
and he did not abandon her at all - but one
must swallow much and say little, these times -
no wonder the world is so full of
horrors and troublesome times.

Doris Fay and Robert Symphor came out
this evening two of my fine boys -
I hope none of them will have to
go to war. O that we might have Peace!

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Fri. 25 Has rained all day - cold and chill.

Ronald McGord is 20 years old today. My! it seems but yesterday, he came into my Sunday School class, a little, mischievous fellow, and now he is a man - the years roll away so fast, but it has been splendid to watch my boys grow, thro' the years, and develope and adjust themselves to their niche in life as they are begining to do. God keep them always fine.

Sat. 26 A most splendid day - all sunshine; and such a Concert as, the Orioles, Mocking Birds, Catbirds and several others, have given all day. I did my usual Saturday work, then made a couple of French flags, 3 x 5. O, that we might have Peace and not hang out our flags, in defiance - every thing is War!

Sun. 27 Rained hard all day - we took car to ^{and} from. S.S. and church; not many present - I only had five boys in class, but it was one of the largest, present. This afternoon Paul White, Robt. Thompson, Harry Davis and Ronald McGord came out. Harry & Robt. played piano. ^{my father} G is 77 years ^{old} ~~and~~ today.

Mon. 28 A most splendid day - all sunny ^{and} fine. Teddy home to dinner. Charlie ^{and} Don Fay out for the evening: we enjoy my boys, immediately.