

Kansas Memory



Martha Farnsworth diary

Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

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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Fri. 17 A very hot day. I went to town this morning to do some shopping. This afternoon, I worked hard cleaning and arranging the house. And this evening about supper time, my dear uncle Ezekiel Rogers of Winfield, Kansas, came for a visit. We were so glad to see him - he is so dear and good and kind, but it seemed so lonely not to see dear aunt Mary with him: the first time I ever saw him without aunt Mary.

This evening Mama Wiede who now is in training at Christ Hospital, to become a nurse, came out for a call, also Melvyn Bribble with his bride, also his father & Mother, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bribble and brother Francis with his wife and beautiful baby boy, a dear blessed baby.

Sat. 18 A most awfully hot day - and I had an awfully lot to do all day. And my poor Teddy's mail was so heavy, he did not get home to dinner. Uncle Ezekiel seems so lost without aunt Mary - he is brave and not "parading" his poor broken heart, but I know how it aches. One of my lovely boys, Robt. Maxwell, was killed one year ago today.

Sun. 19 Another very hot day. I took a car to Ed from S.S. not staying for church. Had ten boys in Glass, Clarence Plummer, being one, having come home from Cole, on a visit. Fred & Uncle Zeke stayed home to rest. This afternoon Corp. Ed Bell and Ed Kennedy, Battery A. boys, stopped at gate and I took pictures of them on their horses, then

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came Scott Brown, Ernest Shelden, Ronald McCord,
Dorothy Fay, Robert Simpson, Fred Brackett, Edwin ^{and} Robert
Jones, Harry Davis, Merle Allton, Ruth Pittenger
Margaret Rist, Carrie Niede ^{and} Dorothy Reddick - a
bunch of lively young folks that made life worth
while, with their fun ^{and} music. I took pictures.
And this evening, Merle Allton came out with Miss
Wulke, Scott with Ruth, Ernest with Vera Crewe,
Fred with Ethel Caster, ^{and} Harry, Edwin ^{and} "Bob Robert"
alone. I served Caramel ice-cream ^{and} Cocoanut cream, cake
which they pronounced, good. Poor Edwin & Harry were
sick with vaccinated arms and could eat no refreshments.
They both look very bad, and arms make me sick to look at.

Mon. 20 Heavy fog this morning - shower last night - hot this
afternoon - in fact, hot, sticky, gummy, all day: uncle
Zeke, with us ^{and} we are so glad to have him, but he is heart
broken and lonely ^{and} makes my heart ache to look at him.
Jenny Remington ^{and} her "soldier boy" Earl Rosley came in
awhile this evening. Fred's mail very heavy today, not home at
noon.

Tues. 21 Another very heavy fog this morning, but a fine
day tho hot. Rain this evening. Pa and my step mother
arrived from Mo. (Springfield) this morning about 8 o'clock
their train late ^{and} Ma not well. Cousins Bert ^{and} Belle
Van Grodol, of Bristow, Oklahoma, arrived about 11:30 A.M.
I had never met them before, but find them very pleasant

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Wed. 22 And still another, sticky, drippy, nasty foggy morning followed by a hot day. Took uncle Zeke's picture this morning, also cousin Belle's. Pa, Ma, Belle & Bert, went over to uncle Geo. VanGrodol's this forenoon, to visit North Topeka relatives for the day and night. Uncle Zeke stayed with us. Poor uncle, how my heart aches for him, he is so lonely.

Thurs. 23 Had a good rain last night, with lots of thunder and lightning and today has been gloriously cool, fine, and sunny - an ideal day, for our family Reunion. We held our "VanGrodol Reunion" at Gage Park - a big dinner at noon and a fine swim, in middle of afternoon. Some were absent thru death, some moving from City, some sick, some threshing, so a number, usually present, were absent, while birth'd new visitors added to our numbers. There were 39 present. Aunt Van Van age 82 Uncle Geo. & Aunt Samantha ^{born} age 80, Uncle Charlie Howard & Aunt Delia Uncle Marian & Aunt Kate VanGrodol, Tom VanGrodol (Aunt Van's son) Ed Kingman & wife Nellie Howard Kingman & children, Charles, Paul Margaret & baby Howard, Geo. Howard & wife Mary & their son Elmer, Will Van's daughter Ruth, Ralph & Wesley Howard of Horton, Marian Gladys & Marie Van. (Uncle Marian's grand children) Mrs. May VanGrodol Heiswinder & children, Robert, Hazel & Glenn, Belle VanGrodol (uncle Marian's girl) Bert & Belle VanGrodol, Bristow, Okla (uncle Scott's children) Belle Heiswinder (aunt Delia's granddaughter) and her fiance Orvil Woodward, Uncle Zeke Rogers, Pa

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ma, two of Ed Knigman's nieces, Fred and myself. We had a good visit together - too bad it could not last longer, or meet often but we are busy people and some are growing old and must come long distances so we crowd our "good time" together, into one day, a year.

Pa and Ma and uncle Zeke came back home with us and we had a quiet evening together, except for Victrola music and I danced a "jig" for Pa, to show him I could.

Friday Aug. 24 As fine a day, as yesterday. Pa + Ma went to depot this morning with uncle Zeke as he left for home, then they went over to Uncle Charlie Howard's to stay all night and I cleaned up the house ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{Canned plums} busy.

Sat. 25 Rained last night again - fine and cool today. I was most awfully busy all day - cleaning and baking; made meat-loaf, apple & lemon pies, cake etc. Pa and Ma came over this evening, from aunt Van Gordolis. I wish Pa lived in Topeka, but he likes better, the "wilds" of Colorado. lives away up, in the canons, many miles from a Railroad.

Sun. 26 A hard blow and rain last night and heavy thunder storm this morning as I left for S.S. I did not stay to church. Fred stayed home this morning with the folks! Uncle Geo. Van came over about 1 o'clock to visit with Pa.

Don Fay, Ross McGord, Charlie Peth, out this afternoon ^{and} Harry Davis, Edwin Jones, Carrie Wiede ^{and} Dorothy Reddick, came this evening. I had but four boys in class this morning.

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Mon. 27 Cousins Bert & Belle Van Gorder, came over this morning from Nellie Stingerman's, and left at 11 o'clock A.M. with Pa and Ma for Winfield, Kansas to visit other relatives - and all of them should have stayed here longer, but Pa thinks must get around and go home: Bert & Belle, did not near get their visit out; they come from Bristow, Okla and I had never seen them before, but like them very much. I went to Santa Fe Depot to see the folks off and Mr. S. J. Hodges, took Ma, Belle & I, from Transfer Station to depot, in his car - he is always doing kind things. Rained hard all afternoon & evening. And cold too.

Tues. 28 Cloudy & cool all day. I canned almost a bushel of Shropford plums today - I miss the folks, fearfully. Robt. Jones came out just after dinner to ask about Camp and this evening, a bunch of the boys came to talk Plans for our coming "Camp trip". Fred Brackett, Scott Brown, Don Fay, Ronald McCord, Robt. Jones, Ernest Shelden, and my two "Soldier Boys" Edwin Jones and Harry Davis. Both in uniform and certainly were handsome. Harry brought Ruth Pittenger and his ukulele. My! but he can make music out of the "uke" - no one can beat him playing it.

Wed. 29 An ideal day. I made three Plum Puddings this morning, to take to Camp. Carrie Wiede, Dorothy Reddick, went with me this afternoon, to the Fair Grounds.

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to see the soldiers, especially my two fine young men, Edwin Jones and Harry Davis; I took them some Crabapple jelly. Edwin was out with Dr. Gull, as Orderly, so we only saw Harry and he was sick with Plague poisoning. We met Edwin's mother, sister and cousin out there; also saw Walter Morris, one of my boys. The camp was most interesting, but too it is heart-breaking to see hundreds of the finest young men mobilizing, to kill and be killed. War is "HELL" and worse, even as Sherman said. Margaret Rust and Ruth Pittenger came out this evening. Margaret's 19th Birthday.

Thurs. 30 Very busy getting ready for Camp. Fred Brackett came out this morning to talk "Camp". Carrie Wiede, Harry Davis, Edwin & Robt. Jones, and Dorothy Reddick, came out this evening. First time I had seen Edwin in his uniform - he looked fine; a handsome fellow anyway. I gave he and Harry, each, an Apricot pie, I baked for them this morning. Very fine day.

Fri. 31 Another fine day. My good Teddy commenced his vacation this morning - and so helped me "pack" and get ready to go to Camp. Carrie Wiede and Dorothy Reddick came out this evening, each bringing a cake for me to "pack" for Camp and Margaret Rust, Ruth Pittenger and Paul Jones also came, Ruth with a cake and Margaret with a basket of tomatoes and cucumbers. Fred Brackett with Robt. Simpson also came out about noon. The whole day has been one of "rush", for "Camp" is one big important event.

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September 1917 "Camp days"

Sat. 1st Up at 5 o'clock this morning, for it is the day looked forward to, for a year - the day of all days, in the year; the day to start for the "Camp of the white Sycamore". It rained in the night, was raining a little when we got up, but we hurried about our work of preparation to start, and soon from all over town, came telephone calls, from my boys, to ask "are you going"? Each afraid the rain would keep us home, but soon the clouds "broke" and the phone ceased ringing and my Teddy & I rushed with all our might, to be ready. I baked five nice apple pies and five dozen nice graham biscuit, for Camp, did ^{up} all my work and dressed. Mr. Grundy Thompson, came for our boxes and hauled all our baggage to depot, and we got off in plenty of time, but none to spare. At Rock Island Depot we met the rest of the young folks and soon had everything checked. Our train came in on time and with happy jesting and laughter, we boarded the 9:50 train for Paxico, my good Teddy and I, and Carrie Wiede, Dorothy Reddick, Cecile Maguire, Ronald McGord, Alice Rice, Robt. Sympon, John Perrine, Robt. Jones and Fred Brackett. Arrived at Paxico on time and found, Mr. C. J. Porter who has always hauled us to Camp, had burned to death last Christmas; had got to drinking upset his stove and burned so badly he died, tho' lived until Feb. 25th. However we got his brother Mr. W. Porter, to haul us to Camp - all our baggage, the girls, Teddy and I; the boys walked. The day was very fine, tho' rather too warm. After arriving at

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Sept. 1917 "Camp Sycamore & Blanca. 99

our beloved camp grounds, the boys "flew" about getting grounds in shape - had to cut weeds and rake off trash, then put up a large tent each, for the boys and girls - a small one for the boys baggage and a small one, for Van Goborn, Fred B's fiancee, with whom he had recently "quarrelled" and made it up again." We ate a cold lunch of Grahams biscuit and Butter, cheese, chip beef and tomatoes, then finished setting up Camp - making table, ice-box etc; girls went swimming, boys finished all work first and had things in fine shape, when more of our "bunch" came in on 2 o'clock train:

Don Fay, Scott Brown, Ester McArthur, Margaret Rust and Van Goborn. Everyone fished and swam and had a jolly time till time for "eats" at 5:30 when I gave them Pork and Beans, Chili sauce, Cheese, tomatoes, Bread, butter and fine Plum jam, which they called "go". A big, full Moon, looks down on a very happy, Camp, tonight. We needed no other light - and Hoot-owls, kept up their "hooting" all night. The young folks went to town to meet more of our bunch who are to come up on the mid-night train and ^{and} we are alone ^{and} Camp is very quiet and restful - very beautiful, is God's great outdoors.

Sun. 2 A very heavy, dripping, fog this morning and we who slept out doors, found our bedding, quite wet this morning. Had a light rain about noon and the boys put up another tent over the table and were so late getting it done we could not attend S.S. in Paxico, so read our Sunday School lesson, in Camp, which idea, I do not just like.

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September 1917 - Camp Sycamore

The afternoon was very fine. Harry Davis, Edwin Jones, Ruth Pittinger and Carl Svensson, came up to Camp on midnight train. Mr. Hobt. Strong visited Camp about noon. Ronald and Robt. Thompson, had a great time this morning tying up Lucille and Alice - they also tied Ron and Robert and did a good job too. Scott Brown and Esther McArthur left this evening for home, 6:20 train and we stayed up until 11 o'clock to see Harry and Edwin off on the mid night train for home and my heart cried with pain, at the parting, for I may never see them again - I had meant to be so brave and send my splendid Soldiers away with a smile, but my heart failed, and thro' my tears I saw them walk down the dark path thro' the trees, on their way to the R.R. Station and so, perhaps out of my life forever - these fine, splendid young men, whom I love as sons; who have been much in my home and many years in my Sunday School class. O God, bring them safe back again from war, to the friendship of our homes, as fine and clean, as they leave us! God keep them always. The night is brilliant with the light of a full moon in a cloudless sky - very beautiful.

Mon. 3 A fine day tho' hot. John Keating of Junction City and Florence Peterson of Arkansas City came to Camp this morning at 3:30 A.M. on a late train. Boys are catching some fine "Carp and yellow catfish, large

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September 1917 Camp of the White Sycamore

fellow^s and we had a big fish & dinner at noon - more than we could all eat. I had Plum Pudding too, among other good things. We all swam this afternoon, in the "old swimmin' hole" my! but the water was fine. Margaret Rust, Florence Peterson ^{Ruth Pittinger} and Carl Swanson, went home on the evening train and the young folks all went to town with them and Teddy and I were alone in camp all evening. The nights are grand with silvery light, from a brilliant big moon, that sends gleams of silver all down thru' the tree tops, with here and there a star, like a diamond set in sapphire. We are all sleeping out in the open, (except a few of the boys) and my bed of straw, is far enough from the trees, to get Moonlight, most of the night.

Tues. 4 A splendid day^s and we are having such a happy camp. Lucille Maguire, the only girl who has fished any, has caught several fish of eatable size. Johnny Miller came to camp at noon. Around on the big East bank near the mouth of the Sno-ko-mo, the boys have made a big "slippery slide," more than 30 ft. high and very steep and both boys and girls have had a big time there today all day. I took a little swim in the old swimmin' hole alone, this evening after young folks all went for their nightly visit to Phillips in Paxico, for refreshments of Cider, Pop etc. The girls play all kinds of pranks on the boys, every day and the boys keep a pretty even score. We have never had a camp with so much "Pep"

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Rivico, Kan.

Wed. 5 Another fine day in old "Camp Sycamore"; another very happy day. On a wager, for Candy, the girls carried the water today - a ten gallon can, from Mr. Will Stearns.

We all swam, today, around near the mouth of the Sno-ko-mo, and we all went down the "slippery slide" but Teddy. It is very high and really too steep for any of us but just oceans of fun, one slide calling for another. Girls tied up some of the boys^{and} tried to tie Johnny Miller but he was too quick for them^{and} tied them instead. But they played so many pranks, the boys promised to get even; and all left Camp in a bunch, after the Marsh-mallow roast, this evening, and then slipped back thro' the dark into their tents, and the girls became so "wrought up" that I had to ~~reassure~~ ^{girls} assure them. After they were asleep, Ronald came out, wrapped in a blanket, groaning "where is my head" and the girls "screched" as if the devil himself, was after them. John Steating went home at noon.

Thurs. 6 Another fine day and full of fun^{and} happiness. Carrie and John Perine, have quite a case: have taken quite a shut-in, to meanother - quite interesting. Merle Allton came in this morning at 4 A.M. from Junction City. The girls all dressed in the boys clothes this morning and we went up to the dam pool, where I took pictures of them. Ronald dressed in girls clothes^{and} all went to town for camp supplies. Merle paid a courteous attention to Lucile Maguire and

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roused Ronald's jealousy at noon and he became very unpleasant with anger, "faked" sick and was ugly all afternoon but "concoct of it" by evening. He was almost as angry last Sun. when Harry paid her, a little attention. Merle and Johnny Miller (Jack Miller, Harry) went home at noon, or rather at 1 o'clock. The young folks all went to town this evening.

Fri. 7 Rained us all into our tents at 5 o'clock this morning with a light shower, and then cleared off and finest kind of a day. Boys set a trot line, last night and this morning brought in some very large, fine fish - yellow cats weigh ten pounds or more, the largest. All the young folks went on a hike of about five miles this forenoon. Carrie and Alice went alone, to the slippery slide just before dinner and we called for supper, getting no answer and began to fear they had drowned - gave us a dreadful scare.

After supper we all went up to Mr. Robt. Strong's where the young folks sang them some songs then went up to Phipps in Paxico - Teddy & I visited until 9 o'clock then went back to camp and washed supper dishes for the girls. Our young folks didn't come to camp until 11:30 and on way home some drunk fellows on horse back chased them, cursed them and frightened them all: the girls were crying when they came into camp and the boys mad and ready to fight. The day certainly has been full enough of excitement - but happy.

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September 1917 Good-bye to Camp.

Sat. 8 Another beautiful day, brimful of fun, but tinged with sadness that the happy week is over and we must say "goodbye to Camp Sycamore La Blanche." We hope, we pray, we may all meet in the Camp-fires glow, here, next year, but these are troublous times; many are going to War - the awful scourge of war is causing so many changes, that it seems very uncertain we shall ever come here again.

I took pictures, at the Sno-ko-mo "slide" this morning but did not have time to swim, and the baggeman came so early this afternoon, that it rushed us to be ready.

After dinner I went with the young folks to get a picture of our beloved Sycamore tree, but the weeds were too high; they all climbed it, against my protest and a limb broke, letting Carrie, Dorothy^{2d} & Alice get a very hard fall but no broken bones, fortunately. At 4 o'clock we all walked to the Depot and took 6:40 P.M. train, on time, for home, arriving in Topeka on time.

A most happy week - the most happy Camping trip we have ever had; girls were full of fun, good humored and brimful of "pep" and the boys their equal. Nan Osborn went home to Wichita at 1 o'clock, all rest of us back to Topeka together and young folks sang all way home on train. Johnny Miller with Esther McArthur, Scott Brown & Hazel Thomas met us at depot and brought Teddy & I home, in Johnny's fine new Stutz car. Many of Bunch at depot to meet us.

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Sun. 9 A fine cool, sunny day. We took car to and from S.S. but so tired, did not stay to church. I only had 7 bags in glass - guess they were tired too. This afternoon Margaret Rust, Ruth Pittenger, Carrie Wiede, Dorothy Reddick, Alice Rice, Lucille Maguire, Ronald McLeod, Robt. Simpson, John Perine, Don Fay, Earl Swanson and Fred Brackett.

Mr. Ice and Mr. Moreland came out. The young folks talked "Camp" and played Piano and sang all afternoon. This evening Fred Brackett, Robt. Simpson, Margaret Rust, Ruth Pittenger, John Perine, Carrie Wiede, Ernest Sheldon, Harry Davis, Johnny Miller, Miss Hague of Holton, Miss Keever of Holton, Scott Brown, Esther McArthur and Mr. Frank Tupper and Don Fay, came in for the evening and it was a mighty jolly bunch that talked over the fun of our 7th Camping trip.

Mos. 10 A very, cool, cloudy day and I jumped around all day, like a cricket, cleaning up Camp things. I got Mrs. Peter Davis to wash for me and I scoured and cleaned all day - Teddy's mail so heavy he didn't get home at noon. I got a mighty lot of work done, but did not get thro' until 8:30 this evening, and am tired.

Tues. 11 A grand day. John Perine called about noon. I baked and cleaned all forenoon. Teddy off this afternoon and we went to the Fair - good, what we saw of it. We went to Orpheum, to see Cohan in "7 Keys to Baldpate" this evening. Pretty good. Mr. Allton came out and stayed all night.

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Wed. 12 Has rained most all day, very hard much of the day. Carrie Niede with John Perine came out for the evening. I worked hard most of day "cleaning" - Merle left here about 10 o'clock - Teddy home late at noon, to change clothes as he was as wet as if he had fallen into the ~~Dam~~ pool.

Thurs. 13 A fine day, and very busy one, for me. This evening the young folks came in, as a "goodbye" to Nan Osborn who has been here, for the Fair! The girls brought lunch for two, in prettily decorated boxes and I made Cocoa for them. The evening was a lively talkfest: about Camp of course, and we had the pictures of Camp too, so we had a merry time over them.

John Perine, Carrie Niede, Don Fay, Dorothy Reddick, Roger Whiddy, Harry Davis, Scott Brown, Ruth Pittinger, Margaret Rust, Fred Brackett, Nan Osborn, Ronald McCord, Lucile Maguire, Robt. Simpson, Merle Alton, Carrie McKease of Junction City, Johnny Miller and Esther McArthur, were the only ones out, as could not reach, all over the phone. They sang, danced, played Victrola & Piano; but the old Camp pictures, were the centre of attraction for the evening.

Fri. 14 A fine day - Cleaned up the house, and it took me all forenoon as its a dirty bunch of kids, that come out here - some of them have no training at home and so are very careless away from home. Nan Osborn was out a moment this morning and Fred B. at noon. Very busy Arthur Dennis called this evening. all day.

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Sat. 15 Just as busy as could be all day. Fred not well and had a very heavy mail all day. He got home late to supper. I went to "Eastern Star" alone, as being Chaplain I had to go early to be there at opening of Chapter. Carrie & Oct. came after I left as Fred did not come to Star until 11 o'clock; in time to bring me home & naturally I was worried to death, lest he be very sick - rascal had better not do such a trick again - I was just sick with fear.

Sun. 16 Fine day, but so cool I wore a jacket this morning we took car to and from S.S. & Church. I had ten boys in class. Rev. Findly of Guthrie, Okla. preached for us this morning, on trial. I didn't like him at all - he can't preach a "little bit." This afternoon some of my fine boys, came out, as usual - Don Fay, Charlie Blatt, Roger McKiddy, Robt. Jones, Robt. Simpson, Ronald McCord, Fred Brackett & John Perine - Mr. S.J. Hodges also brought Rev. Findly out for a call. Clarke Ellington & Carl Swanson came for a short call. This evening, Ronald McCord, Johnny Miller and Helen Rolly, were "short callers", then came Ernest Shelden, Fred Brackett, John Perine, Carrie Wiede, Dorothy Reddick, Harry Davis, Ruth Pittenger, Robt. Simpson, Dorothy Thordman, Clarence Downie & Cura Farrist. Jennie Remington & her "soldier boy" Earl Rowley, were short callers. I am sure our home is greatly blessed by the coming of these young folks - and we enjoy them immensely - they sing and play & chatter like a cage of monkeys. A new boy in class this morning - Everett Carmichael.

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Mon. 17 A very fine day. I had a great big washing, but got thru by noon. Fred home to dinner. I did my ironing this afternoon: a big days work, but am not tired tonight always busy and never thru.

Tues. 18 A most delightful day. At 7 o'clock this morning I went with Mrs. J. Bettis, over North of Garfield Park to get tomatoes, to can. I bought four baskets, at 50¢ per basket; we got home at 9:30 and I went right to work, with them - Canned 22 qts. and prepared the rest for Chili sauce. Am tired tonight alright.

Wed. 19 Another nice day. Went to town this morning to pay Lodge dues, and do some shopping - almost 1 o'clock when I got home, but was in time to get Fred's dinner - met so many mothers, of my Sunday School boys, to talk with, whose sons are going to war.

This evening, Fred & I went down to the Church, to a Party, Mrs. Trout's girls, gave for my class of Boys. Only four of my boys, Robt. Simpson, Scott Brown, Johnny Miller & Roger McHuddy were present and it was too bad for the girls had gone to a good deal of trouble and some expense. But we can't seem to get the young people together, at our Church, nor the old, either for that matter. We have let Bro. Cook go and we will be many a day finding another minister who will anywhere near compare with him.

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Thurs. 20 Cool and cloudy all day - Making Chili Sauce and getting a half Bu. of Pears ready to can - just too busy to see, all day long. Went over to Mrs. Strickler's at noon, to take a picture of her in her Bean patch. This evening, Don Tay brought his mother over for the evening; Mrs. E. Wiede ^{and} sister Mrs. Davis, also came over; and Carrie Wiede, John Sutherlin, Dorothy Reddick, Ruth Pittenger ^{and} Margaret Rust came, so we had another happy evening with our friends, but my lovely Don, was here to say "Good-bye" as he leaves Sat. for "Great Lakes Training School" - He has joined Radio Corps, of Naval Reserves. Don is such a fine boy, I hate very much to see him go, but he is not to go to France, so I feel better about his going, than any of the others. War - I wish I could describe it, but I can only think what Sherman said ^{and know} that it does not begin, to describe War! War with its awful cruelties.

Fri. 21 Cool, cloudy half the day - cool, sunny rest of the day - Canned my Chili sauce and Pears ^{and} prepared a half Bu. of tomatoes to can for soup. Been very busy all day long. A good letter from my beloved Edwin, today, says he will come home ^{and} be at Sunday School, Sunday if he can get a furlough. We will be so glad to see him - a splendidly fine young man beloved by both young and old.

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Sat. 22 A fine, beautiful, day but I was so busy with my Sat. work I could only catch glimpses of the day. I canned nine jars of tomatoes put thru the Colander for soup, also three of the syrup left from canning Bars. I baked a cake for ourselves and also one for Walter Morris, one of my boys, in Battery A. Field Artillery, made "plunkin'" and Apple pies and much work beside. Carrie and Dorothy came over this afternoon - two of my nice girls; always glad to see them coming.

Sun. 23 A splendid day. We took car to S.S. but did not stay for church, as we have no minister yet. I had but 8 boys in Glass and was so happy to have Edwin in Glass for a visit - were he my own son I could not love him more, I'm sure. This afternoon, Carrie Kiede, Dorothy Reddick Scott Brown, Ronald McCord, Johnny Miller, Robert Sympon, Edwin & Robt. Jones, Charlie Plat, John Perine, Fred Brackett, Earl Swanson and Harry Davis were here and we had a most happy, afternoon together and I took pictures of all. Boys went home about 5 o'clock and Carrie & Dot went with Teddy & I down to the Fair Grounds to "Retreat" as Soldiers will soon leave Topeka and we had not been down for any "drill" work - I took a cake down to Walter Morris and

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visited with him a little while - saw several soldiers I knew and friends down, as were we, for "Retreat" tho' we heard it was to be a big "Dress Parade". Band music was good; it was all fine, except the knowledge that its War! and every soldier there, is to give his life if needed. Dorothy came home with us for the evening and Carrie went home to meet her "date". Fred Brackett and Dot had "Bread & Milk" and cake, lunch, with us, then more of young folks came in for the evening - John Perine and Carrie Wiede Robt. Simpson & Sara Dwyre, Johnny Miller and Helen Rolla, Byron Boone & Thelma Houston, Scott Brown & Adalaide Taylor, Harry Davis, another of my fine soldier boys. Harry brought his ukulele and played and sang. And he is expert at both; we all enjoyed him, immensely.

Mon. 24 Another fine day and I filled it full of work and wished it was several hours longer so I could do more. I both washed and ironed, beside the "odds and ends" of housework. We went to the Street Dance tonight for soldiers - big crowd and good time.

Tues. 25 And still the days are fine. I have only done the "little things" today but there were enough of them to keep me working all day. And yet my work seems "play" when I think of all I want to do and hope to do.

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Wed. 26 What a rain we have had today and rained most of day - nearly five inches or rather 4.59 in. Cut out some shirtwaists to make for Fred - so dark and cloudy could not see to do much, & do it well.

Thurs. 27 A splendidly fine day and just did heaps of work today. Almost made two shirtwaists for Tectely. Read announcement in paper, that another one of my boys had married: Edward Price to Eva Wharton, Sept. 19. Not a boy in the class old enough to marry, yet 7 of them have married in last two years! I'm sorry too

Fri. 28 A very fine day tho' most to warm. I baked some nice bread this morning and worked hard on Fred's shirtwaists but didn't get them finished because I tried to do too many things and made a blunder of my work - sewed a sleeve in wrong ^{end} and sewed the shirt up wrong side out - O, dear me.

Walter Morris, one of my Soldier boys (Sunday School Class) came out and spent evening with us, as they leave Mon. morning early, for Ft. Sill, Okla. I gave him a glass

of jelly-Crabapple

Sat. 29 A most beautiful Fall day. I swept and cleaned the whole house, finished Fred's two shirt waists ^{end} and cooked two days meals - Sat. & Sun. - beside much other work. I wanted to bake some cakes for my Soldier boys, but too much else had to be done.

Ralph Davidson came out this evening. One of my fine boys.

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Sept. 30 An ideal Autumn day. We took car to and from S.S. I had nine boys in Glass. We had no "Preaching" today, as have no minister. But they begged money instead. This afternoon, Carrie Wiede Dorothy Reddick, Roger McKiddy, Carl Swanson, John Perine Fred Brackett, Scott Brown, Johnny Miller, Hal McCord Robt. Simpson, John Keating, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bair and Evelyn Mrs. Max McSpadden & Baby and a girl friend were callers. This evening, Helen Williams "Dutch" Meeser, John Perine, Carrie Wiede, Ed. Porter, Carl Swanson, Robt. Simpson, Sara Duwey, Johnny Miller, Helen Rolly,

Scott Brown, Dorothy Christian, Ernest Sheldon Harry Davis, John Keating and Fred Brackett were out for the evening; and Harry, to say "Good-bye", as Battery "A" leaves for Ft. Sill, Okla. early tomorrow morning - I did my best to send Harry away with a smile, but my heart was crying all the time and I could only hold back my tears, until he had passed thro' the gate and out into the night - a bright, beautiful night, all alight from a big silvery, full moon - but heartache cannot enjoy the beauties of the night or any other time; I could only wonder, if my dear Harry would ever come into our home again. So splendidly fine, so beloved by us all, I could not bear to see him go and pray God for his safe return.

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2200 W-10-St.

Topeka, KAN.

Mon. 1st A splendidly fine day, but a heart breaking day for Topeka, for many of our young men, left for Fort Sill to train for War in France. I did not go to the Depot to see them off, for I could not send my young men away with a smile ^{and} I would not make it harder for them, for the anguish of my heart would send the tears, so I stayed home and worked very hard all day - washed a large washing for one thing. I have prayed, fervently, all day for God's blessing on these young men, who are off for War, for humanity's sake; and that God will bring Harry safe home again. Harry has been in our home so much, since he was a little fellow in short trousers - a fine little fellow and now he is a man and off to War; Teddy and I have grown very fond of him and grieve to see him go. Teddy had a very heavy mail and did not get home to dinner.

Tues. 2 Another fine day and I worked all day in the garden trimming up tomato vines, so sun could ripen more, before frost gets them. Another day of heavy mail for Teddy who did not get home to dinner.

Wed. 3 An ideal Autumn day. Made Catsup and have my tomato pickles and green tomato preserves started. Went to Mrs. John Keller's, 11th & Woodward, this afternoon to meeting of Ladies Aux. to Better Garries. This evening Teddy and I went to the Orpheum to see Julian Eltinge in Charming Cantors and it was good - we enjoyed the Pathé News too.

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Thurs. 4 And today has been another golden, Autumn day, grand, glorious. I went to town shopping this morning, and to pay usual bills of Lodge dues, etc. Finished up preserves, catsup and tomato pickles this afternoon, ground up my horseradish etc.

Fri. 5 A glorious day - a very busy day too, for me. Canned up my catsup and preserves, swept, cleaned, dusted the whole house and this afternoon went to Mrs. Scott's 1156 Mulvane, to Missionary Meeting, after which I called to see Lizzie Roly-Bair. Snappy cool this evening.

Sat. 6 Another splendid day - just a typical Kansas Autumn day. Worked hard as I could work, all day doing Sat. Sun. Cooking, stuffing Mingo's and working button holes in Teddy's new shirt-waists and then hurried to dress for Lodge. Teddy went with me to Eastern Star - nice meeting, big crowd. Light frost this morning - our first.

Sun. 7 Another fine, Sunday morning, but cold wind, cloudy after noon and shower about 1 o'clock a very cold evening. Had fire in grate afternoon and evening. We took car to S.S. but did not stay to church - went to funeral of Mr. Theodore Saxon, in Potwin, at 11 o'clock. Uncle Geo. VanCordol came over for dinner - he will be 80 yrs. old on 13 inst. Robt. Sympson, Ronald McGord, Scott Brown, Carl Swanson and Charlie Blath and Mr. F. Leatherman called this afternoon. Robt S., Scott Brown, Ernest Sheldon, Jack Miller, Helen Rolly, Helen Williams, Sarah Averye and Dorothy Christian came out this evening.

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Mon. 8 A beautiful, sunny day, with brisk cool air - froze a good coating of ice last night and killed plants in garden and flowers. I washed and ironed today; gathered my tomatoes and pulled up the vines - worked hard all day - Teddy got home to dinner.

Tues. 9. A lovely day - quite warm. ^{"B"} I have written letters all day, to my boys who are off to War; my beloved Sunday School boys, who have been in my class so long, that they seem like my own sons. I pray every day, for each one ^{by name} and there are so many.
Fred Brackett, 20 yrs. old today.

Wed. 10. A splendidly beautiful day, crispy cool, and delightful. Very busy making some more green tomato preserve. Called in to see Mrs. M. H. Strickler a moment just before noon. Fred Brackett came in this afternoon. He was 20 yrs. old yesterday - one of my boys, who causes me much worry because he would rather do anything, than come to Sunday School.

Thurs. 11 A fine, sunny day. Made me a new flambelette gown today. Went to Y.W.C.A this afternoon to a meeting of the Good Government Club - had quite a wrangle about passing Resolution not to send tobacco to the boys in the trenches in France; the resolution passed by a large majority, several not voting and only three voting against. I did not vote, for while I am most bitterly

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opposed to tobacco in any form, I do not feel that now is the proper time to begin reforming. Boys who have had tobacco all their lives, crave it now, above all else and their nerves go to pieces without it - don't compel them to fight and be reformed at same time: too much of a nervous strain. Wind blew, whippy, whirlie, and very cold about 5 o'clock, from out the North-West. Robert Sympon, Ruth Pittenger, Scott Brown & Margaret Knust came out for the evening. Guess Margaret will always be a baby - she got down in the floor and wanted to play Leap-frog, with Scott. She is not a favorite - too much baby.

Fri. 12 Fine^{ed} sunny but awfully cold - froze hard. Slept and cleaned the house and very busy all day. The young folks gathered here this evening and went for a Whirlie-roast, down to Children's Park, but so cold did not stay long and came back here for the evening, to play, sing and dance. Robt. Sympon got up the affair and old blunderer that he is, did not ask Teddy and I; we were glad, but rest seemed disappointed: but it was too awfully cold to enjoy any kind of "Roast" tonight. Those who came were mostly strangers to us too - Robt. Sympon, Lillian Carlson, Ron McLeod, Cecille Maguire, Jock Miller, Helen Rolly, John Perine, Carrie Wiede, Scott Brown & Dorothy Christian, "Babe" McCallan, Helen McCallan, Earl Palmer, Rose Rogers, Mr. Chrisman, Miss McGuire. We had a big fire built in the grate and how they flocked about it.

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Sat. 13th A fine, warm, sunny, day. I did up all my Sat. & Sun. work, baking, cleaning etc and put up the heavy winter curtains, between hall and parlor, then dressed and went over to uncle Geo. Van Gorder's in Shorey to help him celebrate his 80th Birthday - He seems a man very much younger. Quite a big crowd of us present. I got there just as they sat down to a fine dinner. And my good Teddy came just as we got thru eating and had rest of afternoon with us, as a half Holiday. Cousin Bessie Van-Richards, husband ^{and} son, came from Herington, also Mr. & Mrs. Richards from Kansas City. Rea Anderson, son of cousin Jennie Van-Auderson came up from Oklahoma City. Cousin May Van-Wieuwender Hazel & Glenn, Aunt Delia & Uncle Chas. Howard, Cousin Mary Howard & Elmer, Cousin Nellie Howard-Kingman and Children, Mrs. Gaverty and Children, made a big house full, and we had a fine visit together - & yes, Belle Neiwender-Woodward and husband were also there; Bride & Groom.

We came home at 4:30 after a happy day.

Sun. 14 Another fine day. We took car to Ed from S.S. ^{and} church: only had 5 bogs in glass. Rev. R.E. Snodgrass of Savanna Mo. preached a fine sermon this morning. Fred Brackett, Charlie Blath, Scott Brown, Jack Miller, Ron McGord came out this afternoon and this evening Jack Miller & Helen Rolley, ^{and} Fred Brackett came out. Too fine a day and night - it lured the young folks away to the big out doors.

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Mos. 15 - As warm and fine and sunny as a summer day - Ah! what so rare as an October day in Kansas, with sapphire skies over head and the leaves a falling down, all red and gold and brown. My good Teddy's big mail kept him from getting home to dinner. I got my washing out early this morning and did my ironing this afternoon, beside much other work.

Tues. 16 And still the days are fine and splendid and we are thankful: the trees are beautiful in their brilliant autumn colors! Have been most busy all day. Got some splendid letters, from my "Soldier Boys" today. Harry wrote a very gruesome tale of the death of a young Infantryman, caused by falling over a cliff. Edwin wrote a most interesting account of their daily life in Camp at Fort Sill. Don wrote of the need of friends and relatives to write letters to the Soldiers to keep them happy and contented: my boys are "Capital" letter writers and we enjoy their letters immensely. My good Teddy & I went to see Fairbanks at the Orpheum in "The Man from Painted Post" - he is good in anything and we enjoyed him hugely, tonight, but I like him best in his Society or Athletic Plays.

Wed. 17 Cold tonight and a cloudy, heavy day, which I filled full of work. We went to the Grand tonight to see Anna Held in "Follow Me". We enjoyed her but not her company and I got so tired looking at "Legs"

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Thurs. 18 After a hard rain last night, it has turned cold, without bringing snow. Another very busy day - sewing, mending, writing, baking, with days ~~not half~~ long enough.

Fri. 19 A splendidly ^{"B"} beautiful day, all bright and sunny. I went to town this afternoon to take out Fire and ~~B~~ Tornado Insurance on our home, with Mr. Elliott of the Shawnee Fire Ins. Co. Did some shopping and came home. Teddy had to go to the Church this evening to Board meeting. Robt. Simpson, 20 years old today - one of my S.S. boys.

Sat. 20 A fine sunny day but cold. Very busy every minute of the day. Fred Brackett came out this afternoon with tickets to see "Little Women" at Auditorium, for Teddy & I but I could not go, as I had to go to "Eastern Star" where I am Chaplain. Teddy & I were almost late too, as cars were off. Was a very large crowd present, it being Past Matron's night.

Sun. 21 A fine cool day. Teddy & I took car to and from S.S. Church. I had 8 boys in Class. Charlie Titus of Sacrements Calif. an old Topeka boy, talked to us this morning, instead of preaching service - he is Y.M.C.A. Sec. sent by the government to have charge of the War "Y" work for our boys in France. It seemed good to see him again and his talk was intensely interesting.

This afternoon Scott Brown, Jack Miller, Carl Swanson, Robert Simpson and Nancy Boone came out, and this

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evening Fred Brackett, John Perine Carrie Wiede, Jack Miller Helen Rolly, Robt. Sympson ~~Sara~~ ^{Douglas}, Earl Farmer Rose Rogers, Scott Brown and Dorothy Christian, came out. It was cold and we had a big fire in the grate and all sat in a circle about it, in the fire lights glow, with the lights turned out, and there was music and merry chatter, all evening and short lines of greeting written to our Soldier Boys off for War, who used to sit in the circle with us. It was a most happy evening, but we missed our beloved boys, whom the tragedy of War has called from us.

Mon. 22 The morning was cold and rainy - the afternoon cold and sunny. I did my washing, got it dry in time to iron by late evening - also did some mending. Lent \$6. " to my neighbor Bettie, for her nephew of Eudora.

Tues. 23 Fine and ^{"B"} sunny and cold tho' not freezing, thro' the day. Been writing most of the day. Have written letters all day when not "hopping up" to run answer a knock at the back door, a ring, at the front door, and then the telephone. One needs a maid these busy times. Ernest Sheldon 20 yrs. old today.

Wed. 24 And still another fine day - October is grand. Mr. & Mrs. Frank Carey, very dear friends who used to live here, but now in San Bernardino, Calif., came in for Supper and to spend the evening and we had a lovely visit together.