

Kansas Memory



Martha Farnsworth diary

Section 9, Pages 241 - 270

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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Sun. 15 Rainy, "sunshine & showers" all day.

We went to our own Sun. S. and Church this morning as Bro. Burkes, preaches us his last sermon before leaving for the war. Edwin Jones and John Keating came out for the afternoon. Two-nigly fine-fellows and we used to have the house full of them; of mighty fine fellows.

Morn. 16 A fine day and evening, tho' we felt frost in the air, this morning and imagined (?) we saw a wee bit, and Papers say we had a "wee bit" our first. I washed and stayed up tonight until midnight to do my ironing - Have been so interrupted all day.

Mr. Jesse Henderson came early this morning to say Good-bye, as he goes to Atchison to make his home with Carl. Mrs. Lovall brought her knitting and came and spent the afternoon, and sweet, little Carrie Wiede came in for the evening. Surely this was my "busy day".

Tues. 17 A most splendid day. I went to town this morning shopping - bought me a navy blue, Poplin, suit and paid \$37.75 for it, an outrageous price, but what is one to do? This afternoon, I went to Mrs. Lee Monroe's to a Board meeting, of the Good Government Club. Mrs. E. Gandy was made Treasurer in place of Mrs. Norman Keller who resigned. Mrs. Emma Sells-Marshall was present in a very pretty new suit, and looked, expensive.

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Wed. 18 Another fine, tho' a cooler day. I had to go down to Pelleter's this morning to get my dress fitted. We read, good war news now, every day, in the papers. God is blessing the sacrifices of the nations, with splendid victories against the Huns.

Thurs. 19 A splendidly, cool day - such a relief from the heat; I went to a meeting of the Good Government Club this afternoon at Y.W.C.A. I am its President and not much need be expected of the Club, during my term of Office, as, because of jealousies, I must always keep drawn back within myself, like a tortoise in its shell - if I personally, make too much of a fight, for any good thing, there are those who would quickly dump my good husband out of a job, and we have got to live, so I must work very humbly, and quietly, within bounds. Well, we had a goodly meeting, this afternoon ^{and} voted aye on some very good things - one, "against German being spoken any where, outside of their own homes" another, "To employ the wives of Soldiers, - who are capable - as teachers, in our schools." When I came home this evening I hastened to feed and milk the cow, prepared Supper for my good Teddy, then while he ate, I hurried, to finish putting more stars and two triangles on the Church Service Flag "without supper myself, Teddy" ^{and} I hurried to Prayer meeting at the Church, where Bro. Burke, preached his Goodbye Sermon ^{and was} pleased to see a triangle on the Service Flag for him.

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Fri. 20 Such a grand, glorious, Autumn day.

A very busy morning - this afternoon, I went to Mrs. Cummings, 142 Jewell Ave., to C.W.B.M. meeting, of my Aux. Division #1. Only five present and did not have the lesson. Mrs. King took Mrs. Graham and I to Mrs. Constable's 701 West St. where we both turned over movies, then Mrs. King took Mrs. Benner and I, on down town to Pellegrino's where I got my new dress, and came home, on street car.

Sat. 21 Mr. G.B. Hypesnd and Mrs. Scholes were married today in Kan. City.

Quite a frost this morning and ice and a splendid day. Very busy all day. Helen McCahan and "Slim" Van Hook called about 11 o'clock - hadn't seen either of them all summer. I took pictures of them.

Our nights are glorious with a big fine Harvest Moon.

Sun. 22 A splendidly fine day. We went to Sun. S. and Preaching at First Presbyterian Church this morning.

We sat in the Orchestra Glass taught by Rev. Hart and enjoyed his talk very much - we were a little late all having gone to classes when we arrived. Orchestra has seven violins (6 are girls) Cella Helen Creeper and "drums" a girl, Bass viol, boy. 285 present. Ten teachers and 81 pupils tardy. Collection \$18.56. Saw so many good friends and a number of our girls. Also Florence McCord and her soldier lover, whom she is to marry in next ten days. Rev. Estey preached one of finest sermons I ever heard 11 chap Heb. "Slim" Van Hook, Jack Miller and Helen Rolley called this evening.

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Mon. 23 A splendid day. I washed, ironed and "cleaned" today. And my good husband got home to dinner at noon. We went to Orpheum this evening to see Hayakawa in "The City of Nine Faces." Splendidly acted, but too tragic, however it taught a good lesson, that each should marry in their own race. The war pictures were splendid - best we have seen.

Tues. 24 Cousin Belle van Orsdel married today to Gene Strimple in ^{Madatory}. A good day; war news grow better every day - hope our boys ⁽¹⁵⁾ and the Allies soon put the finishing touches to the dirty Hun. Wrote letters all day to my boys, my beloved Hun School boys "Courtines".

Wed. 25 Another beautiful day & I stayed indoors, to write letters, to my beloved boys, somewhere in France - wrote all day. It is a joy to read the papers, these times, for our boys and the Allies are winning such glorious victories over the accursed Hun - & that the Hun race might be annihilated.

Thurs. 26 A grand day tho' got pretty warm. Just about noon, I was most happily surprised by a call, of one of my fine boys, who has been absent from City for number of years - Herbert Tucker, now of St. Louis. He and little niece and Helen Rutledge came out. I was so surprised and so pleased to see him - he is just the same old "Tuck."

Fri. 27 Mr. Dennis came in this evening with good letters from Arthur. Very warm, windy, whippy whirly, blowy, day. I put in another day writing letters and still have many more to write, so much writing almost gets on my nerve tho' I love to write to my beloved boys; its just confusing.

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Sat. 28 Summer almost gone - and the days so beautiful now that the hot ones, are over. Very busy, cooking, cleaning, and writing more letters. Fred is sick with cold & sore throat poor fellow. I gave his throat good rubbing with C. oil. Florence McColl and Lieut. Roy Johnson were married this evening.

Sun. 29 A most splendid day. I was up early, to feed, milk, take care of cow and chickens - ate breakfast alone, rubbed Fred's throat and Chest good, with Camphorated oil, then dressed and went to Sun. School and church. And today, I turned aside, into the byways of the City and went to a little, red-brick Church around the corner at 10th & Clay - the Reformed Presbyterian. I was early, and was no one present, when I stepped inside the little, quiet, house of God; but in the hushed stillness I felt God was there in that plain, humble, unobtrusive place of worship and I knew my prayers would be heard of him there as graciously as tho' sent up from a more pretentious place. And I did pray, there in the quiet, and alone, prayed with all my heart, soul and very being, for my splendid boys across the seas - O God keep them every one, bring them safe home again! Perhaps fifty people were in the little S.S. I knew not any, but met and sat beside Mrs. Will Frisch, Mrs. McClelland, who introduced me to Rev. Taggart and wife; The lesson was Review, and given in most excellent way, by Rev. Taggart. They have a woman Supt. and things went with a vim. I stayed for preaching services and Rev. Taggart who is very young, did quite well. Found Herbert Tucker and Helen Rutledge, at home when I got there - Had a nice visit with them, took their pictures, then took

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said "goodbye" to go back to St. Louis and into the Army. Mr. Q. B. King and Mr. Robinson of the church, called after dinner to get church pledge. Carrie Lunde, Dorothy Reddick and cousin Miss Elbrauer came out for the afternoon and I took their pictures. Guther Davis came in and spent evening with us. He is a dandy boy, we think. Poor Teddy is feeling much better this evening after another Camphorated-oil rub. He was not able to go to Sun. S. and church today.

Mon. 30 A very cool morning and very cool wind all day. I washed and ironed as usual, and picked from stems a half bushel of wild fox grapes. I bought of Mrs. Bettis for 50¢ and not worth the money. But everyone seems to "hold me up" that sells me anything. Fred is quite himself again: his mail was very heavy and did not get home to dinner at noon.

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Tues. 1 A splendidly beautiful day - writing letters - got such a good one, yesterday from Scott Brown, Queenstown, Ireland. Fred's mail as heavy did not get home to dinner.

Wed. 2 Another splendid day. Fred was to have the day off, so we did not get up very early, and had late breakfast; then Fred was called to go to Office and to work at 8:30 and it sure "made me tired". But he went, and got this fine. We went to Orpheum this evening to see Katherine Williams and Elliott Dexter in "We can't have everything", but really Wanda Hawley, was best of all of the players. Her pictures not very good.

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Thurs. 3rd One grand day, tho' it got pretty hot. Fred home today, having one day of vacation. We went to town this morning to do some shopping and pay our usual bills. And we both had our "glasses" changed at Dr. Bentinger's. We got home late and had a late dinner, then went to Rose's for more groceries - bought a ham (Swift's Premium) 17 pounds cost \$6.05 outrageous price - war profiteering, nothing else.

Fri. 4 Another beautiful day. Fred working today and I wrote letters to my Sunday School Soldier Boys, "Over There". And it looks as if our writing would soon be over - for we can see the end, in the near distance - the Germans are "licked"; Old Kaiser Bill needs a bump or two yet.

Sat. 5 Better day than yesterday, but dry and hot - need rain. Baked, cleaned, wrote letters and put in a full day. War news gets better every day; some pleasure in reading papers now, except for the long, "Casualty List."

Sun. 6 A fine day tho' rather warm. We walked down to S.S. and church this morning, stopping on our way at Mr. Bance's 808 Clay St. to take a Kodak picture of him for his boys "Somewhere in France" - also of Fire Dept. at #4 Fire Sta. Blanche Pittenger walked with us to S.S. or part of way. Mr. & Mrs. John Rungren, Ernie and Helen Shelden, and Luther Davis, came in for the evening. But Q, we miss our boys, my S.S. boys. Our new Pastor Rev. Schell preached this morning: Hebrew 10:22-28.

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Mon. 7 A lazy, hazy, soft, fine day. I washed and ironed. My good Teddy home to dinner-mail light. War news better every day but "Influenza" is raging all over the Country and almost whole World - getting rather serious in Topeka.

Tues. 8 Another very fine day. Wrote letters and began a Service Flag which I shall present to the Good Government Club of which I am President. I prepared a basket lunch and went to the Church this evening, to our Annual Meeting. Fred went to the Church, from his work and met me at Street car, 6th & Topeka Ave. There was a godly crowd at the Church a good Supper, and a good time. Our new Pastor and family were present - Rev. & Mrs. Schell, each made a little talk as did Dr. Smith and the Bride, Rose Scholle-Hypes. Then came Election, of Elders and Deacons - Fred was re-elected a deacon. Also had reports of all Depts. We got home at 11 o'clock, two sleepy kids. Had a hard rain last night - thunder storm.

Wed. 9 A warm, half cloudy day. I walked down to 1220 Polk St. this afternoon to call on Mrs. Thos. Clements, the mother of one my boys, "Over there" - I took a "snap-shot" of her to send him. I had never met nor seen her before - a very pleasant little lady. Our schools, churches, theatres etc, all closed today noon because of the Influenza epidemic - not bad yet, just afraid it will be, so this wise precaution.

My sister Mary Gilbert, is 50 years old today. Fred Brackett is 21 today. Wilma Farnsworth is 19 today. Busy sewing stars on Service Flags for Good Government Club today.

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Thurs. 10 A pretty Autumn day, with the gold and bronze and brown, in the falling leaves, but so busy with my indoor affairs I have hardly had time to glimpse thro' the windows, the beauties of autumn. Working on the G. G. Club Service flag, and writing letters to my boys "overthere".

Fri. 11 Another pretty day, all sunny, Indian Summer!

Finished the Service Flag and did many "odds & ends" of work. "War news" better every day. Germans are "licked" but the stubborn brutes, won't give up; need a little more beating and will sure get it. I don't want any Peace except that brought by a thoro' beating and no Armistice. Let our Yankees go, keep them on the run, until they give up; and admit defeat, with unconditional surrender.

Sat. 12 Another fine day - & who would not live in sunny Kansas, with her lovely Indian Summer Autumns. Baked and cleaned and worked hard all day.

Sun. 13 A most beautiful day, tho' little cool.

We could not go to S.S. or Church today, because every thing is closed on account of the Influenza, which is very bad here - some 400 cases ^{and} few deaths.

We had a very quiet restful day at home. Dorothy Reddick and cousin, a Miss Elbracht came in this afternoon. My boys are all in Army.

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Mon. 14 A fine "Indian Summer" day. I washed and ironed ^{and} cleaned up the house. Fred home to dinner. War news, better every day, but also the casualty lists, are longer, and America is losing many of her fine young men - war hell? for a million hells. Influenza growing worse every day.

Tues. 15 Another grand day, warm as summer. Mrs. ^{Wife of} Florence Penwell came out this afternoon. I took their pictures. I have sewed most all day, making sheets towels, napkins etc out of my cotton feed-sacks - some splendid muslin in the sacks and cotton is very high, scarce ^{and} badly needed for war purposes, so to conserve I am using my feed-sacks, for underclothes and household uses.

Wed. 16 Such a grand day, would like to have gone out and walked far into the country, but instead I stayed in and sewed all day, making things of coarse cotton feed-sacks, that before the War, I would not have thought possible to use - too coarse; now I'm glad to use them.

Thurs. 17 A grand, half-hazy, Indian Summer day and I worked very hard all day. Rented an electric sweeper from Mr. John Keller (50¢ for $\frac{1}{2}$ day) cleaned all my rugs, ripped ^{and} sewed some, cleaned whole house and put down rugs and everything is so fine and clean tonight and house looks lovely. Fred's mail very heavy ^{and} both very tired tonight.

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Fri. 18 Quite cool and a misty, drizzly, sprinly, nasty sticky day. Had fire in the grate all afternoon.

Dib. #1, of C.W.B.M. Auxiliary, met with me this afternoon and those who came were, Mrs. ^{Hugh} Benner, Mrs. E. V. King, Mrs. Will Rogers and Mrs. C. A. Scott and Mrs. H. Canning who reviewed our book, "Women workers of the Orient."

Sat. 19 Fog, mist, and a bit of real rain. Baked some "B" very lovely bread with potatoes nd oatmeal Sub. using about 70% wheat flour. Made apple pies, steamed a chicken, mended, and made some lovely new curtain for the hall. See in tonights paper that our church has had another wedding of the "freak" variety D. L. Carson, tall, bony, nd peculiar, married wee little Mrs. E. E. Moore, nearly old enough to be his mother - Cupid does turn some queer "flip-flops".

Sun. 20 A splendidly beautiful day. Everything in City is closed because of "Influenza" so we could not go to church, and were home all day. This afternoon Carrie Wile, Elma Stewart, Thelma Huston nd Nancy Boone came out and I took their pictures. This evening Luther Davis, Frances Scott, Mora Wile, Miss Bennett & Miss Magaw came out for the evening - the girls all nurses from Christ Hospital, and certainly full of the "old sick", tonight. Luther is just over the "Flu" which is very bad in the city. Mr. Marian Shelden called this evening.

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Mon. 21 A most beautiful day. I washed and ironed as usual.

My good Teddy got home to dinner today. War news letter every day. Will soon have "Peace" I think, for the Brute Germans are "licked" but too stubborn to give up.

Tues. 22 Another fine day. Wrote a lot of letters beside going to town to "shop" this afternoon. Too busy for words.

Wed. 23 Cloudy, cool, and showery. Ernest Sheldon 21 yrs. old today.

=B= I cleaned all the house, made six doz. barley, drop-cakes and about three gallon of cocoa, for I had asked 40 girls at this evening, to do some Red Cross work - "snipping" for fracture pads - to be sent to a Hospital in Paris, France.

Because of the Influenza epidemic, most of the mothers would not let their girls come, so were only 23 who were fearless enough to come, but they made a house full. I opened all doors and windows (upstairs), and all south windows (downstairs) and built a big, roaring fire in the grate and our ventilation was O.K.

Because of the war, Topeka is a real "no-man's-land" and I knew no boys to ask, but told the girls, if they knew any, why to ask them, but they all said, "nothing doing - nothing left but slackers and infants and we don't want them," so they came alone and it was a pitch dark night and raining some. Some of the girls had a long way to come, but American girls are getting used to "dateless" nights. They came, 23 of

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them, sweet and pretty and jolly, and I thought, not a boy, could have made a choice among them, in the wide, wide world - they would have wanted them all and, gone to letah to live. O, Soldier boy, I tell you they were irresistible in their Red Cross uniforms!

But, can anyone imagine a "One Party" at my house? a really, truly, all girls, Party at my house? Well at first I could hardly hold back the tears, and a lump in my throat, hurt so, and just wouldn't go away; and the girls too, at first, were of a "bluish" hue, but they looked thru the Class Books, at pictures of my beloved boys, and at their pictures on the "Honor Roll" which I have on the wall, then at the pictures of the boys, smiling down at them, from the top of the piano, and the pictures brought memories of happy times and funny incidents of Camp and home affairs. And soon they were all busy at work, and chattering away like a bunch of "Magpies" about this fellow and that one, and wishing the old Bunch were all here and playing good times, for "when the boys come marching home again". O my Soldier Boys, could you but have stepped into the midst of that circle of girls, they were that hungry for a sight of my beloved Bunch - well, I would never have writhed for the life of one of them for with 23 pairs of arms, flung about me, my! 'twould have been worse, than the largest Boa Constrictor ever brought out of the jungles of Africa. I asked the

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girls) to come out, early, so they could go home, early as they would be alone; and they did, come early, but as to going home early, not a girl left before 11 o'clock, and it so "pitchy" dark. Paul Harrison came out and took a "flash light" picture, after which they danced a wee bit - some one started the Victrola but "memories" of other days, gave every one the "blues", so after playing just one piece - "Eiliza Jane," they closed the Victrola and put Betty at the piano and she played like one, "possessed": first, in a most doleful manner, she doled out, "Abide with me" and I'm sure she was dreaming, of her Soldier sweetheart, and the time when he would come home to "Abide with her" but the girls did not understand her dream, so raised a howl, and she changed to "Saved by grace", which she "duged" out, most tragically - this brought a worse howl from the girls, and as a last resort to please, she thundered out, "Cohengrin's Wedding March," but how could any of the girls, step to that, with all the boys away to war, so in desperation, they dumped her from the piano bench and put Alice there - she played some dance music, the girls closed their eyes, tried to imagine themselves "floating in the arms of their favorite Soldier boy," for a dance or two, but the dream would not come true, they could get up no "Reps", so gave it up. I had them sing the prayer, (sung here now, in all churches) "God save our splendid men, Bring them safe home again, God save our men. Make them victorious, patient and chivalrous, They are so dear to us, God save our men" as a tribute to my boys ^{and} I told them to think of what our boys were going thru; for

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us, and to mean every word, with all their hearts as they sang; they began fine, but soon a voice, here and there grew weak, and down some cheeks, tears glistened and finally several left the room to cry. O my Soldier Boys if you could but realize the love and good wishes, in the hearts of all for you, America would not seem so far away. I'm sure there has never been a bunch of young folks so congenial, with such love and close friendship as exists between my beloved boys and their girl friends. I must record a joke Adalaide played on Sara D. and "Katherine of the Delodes". The two girls were sitting in an open window, which fact was observed by Adalaide, and observing, proceeded to have some fun - unnoticed by all, she left the room with Margaret and went upstairs, crawled thro' an open window, onto the wet slippery roof of the porch laid down flat, hung her head over the edge, and whistled; immediately, Sara and Katherine, answered, thinking they were about to make a "date in this dateless" town. The whistling and answer, continued some moments, and since no one could tell from whence it came, I told them they better quit, as it might be a nigger, across the street, so they closed the window, then Adalaide came down and told the joke and they were ready to pound her. They were a jolly bunch, a sweet, pretty bunch, but O we needed the boys our Soldier Boys we can't be just the happiest without the old bunch and we are praying for their safe

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home coming, after they have won Peace for us and the world.
And so, ended happily my first "girls Party" - my lovely
"Red Cross" girls, and these are they who came; Elma
Stewart, Dola Forsgren, Marian McArthur, Verma Wise, Frances
Scott, Mora Wiede, Florence Penwell, Lucille Maguire, Leila
Carson, Carrie Wiede, Sara Owyre, Esther Forsgren,
Katherine Harmon, Sicily Allison, Esther McArthur
Helen McCahan, Aline Officer, Miss ~~Guest~~ from Harper, Ks.
Betty Harmon, Helen Campbell, Katherine Harriet, Katherine of "Oleby"
Adelaide Taylor and Margaret Officer - lovely, lovely girls.

Thurs. 24 A fine, sunny day. I cleaned up a very dirty house -
I don't believe my boys ever got the house as dirty as
did the girls last night, but then "snipping" made lots
of lint and ravelings. I wrote many letters today to my
soldier boys, to tell them of our Party ^{and how we missed them}.

Fri. 25 A fine day; wrote letters all day - Quy, its work.

Sat. 26 Rained a steady down-pour all day - cold too.
I baked as usual and wrote many letters.

Sun. 27 Just one of those disagreeable days - cloudy
half rainy, cold - we had fire in the Grate all day.
Carrie Wiede, Fred & Nan Brackett, Ernest & Helen Shelden
Bob Simpson and Cecil & Edith Shelden came in in late
afternoon. Fred to say goodbye as goes to Navy - Great Lakes.

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Mon. 28 Cloudy and cool, but wind enough to blow my clothes dry, so I got to do my ironing - Teddy home to dinner. War news says Peace is almost here.

Tues. 29 So bright and sunny and beautiful. Autumn foliage is exquisitely beautiful, this Fall - every shade of bronze on the Spirea - Pear trees brilliant glossy red, Apricots are golden yellow as are the Elms. Some of the Plums are tawny, some vivid green, Maples, how can one describe Autumn's gorgeous bouquet of colors - one can only admire, words fail utterly of description. Received a letter today from Sgt. Harry Davis, written in Hargerville, France, on paper, taken from a dead German, when the American advanced into the village of Barnevilles. Our boys have been doing some hard fighting. Have been writing letters all day. Dr. Osborne called this afternoon to get the names, for our Church "Honor Roll".



Wed. 30 A fine day. Wrote letters again today, every spare moment of my time, to my beloved Soldier Boys.

Thurs. 31 Cold today. Writing letters all day - I wish I could write with both hands at once. Nancy Boone and Gillian Larson, called early in evening and Luther Davis, Helen Campbell, Millard Stowell and Miss Bush came in for the evening. I have always had a Halloween Party for the boys, but they are all away to war now.

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Fri. 1st A very pretty day. The day has been full of work, the evening full of the fun and happiness of young people. Robt. Simpson came out with pretty, little Agnes Wohler, who used to come out here, five years ago, before she left the City for several years residence. ^{in total} Louther Davis brought Nancy Stone, Flavious Burkett, Katharine Dolan, and Mr. Frank Leonard Lillian Carson. We had a very happy evening with our young folks. Bob is infatuated for the moment, with Agnes but it won't last long - perhaps a week, not over two.

Sat. 2nd Another pretty day. Baking, clearing, and very busy all day. This evening, Edwin Jones and John Keating of the Washburn S.A.T.C. came in also Bob Simpson and his little butterfly, pretty Agnes Wohler, Louther Davis, Helen Campbell, Willard Stovall and Miss Bush. I never know when my young folks are coming - they come when ever they take a notion for they know they are always welcome. They kiss the rugs into a corner, start the Victrola and dance, til bed time, go home, and I put the rugs down again and we are always glad when they come again.

Sun. 3 A fine day tho' cool. Jack Miller and Helen Kelly came out just about noon and I took their pictures. This afternoon Jack & Helen came again and with them, Ronald McCord, Margaret Pettyjohn, Bob Simpson and Frances Grote, and this evening they all came again, except that Bob brought Agnes Wohler. Ronald was fine in uniform.

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"Peace - premature"

Mon. 4th A very pretty day. I washed a large washing and ironed - was very busy all day.

Tues. 5th A warm and very windy day. Election day, and I went early to the polls to vote. Mrs. J. Bettis took Mrs. Tucker and me, with her, and drove to our voting place on W-6th, and I voted straight for every Republican, praying they may all win! I went to town to Shop and pay Bills, after voting. After dinner I went to Mrs. Irvin's, 1012 West Street, to another voting place where I gave out literature for the "War Work" Committee. A big full day of work and play.

Wed. 6 A fine day - warm. Election Returns tell of a wonderful Republican victory all over the country - a regular landslide, and I am wondering what our "spineless" President thinks about it. He must think it looks as if he would not get to be Kaiser of America.

Thurs. 7 Gold and rainy. And word came at noon or 11:30 that Peace had been declared, and bells rang, guns were fired, people quit work and simply went crazy with joy. I was home alone, when I heard first whistle just before 1 o'clock but knew instinctively it meant "Peace" so hung out my flag and went down on my knees, ^{and} thanked God. Teddy did not get home to dinner, as I dressed

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and went to town - the streets were a jam of "people and noise"; joyful, happy noise - noise made by every conceivable thing that noise could be pounds out of. The "Kaiser" was hung in effigy at 8th & Kansas Ave, and shot to pieces - and some one else had a "Kaiser" tied behind their automobile and dragged, kicked, beat, shot etc. It seemed impossible for the people to find ways enough in which to show their joy over Peace declaration, and their hatred of the Kaiser, the fiend incarnate. And this evening we hear, that two speeding automobiles crashed together about 5 o'clock, at 7th & Topeka Ave and hurt many people, two among them, our lovely Katherine and Betty Harmon - a sad ending to a hilariously happy day. But tonight, the noise of a spontaneous, Peace demonstration, continues. We are staying at home however, content in the days happiness.

Fri. 8. A beautiful day. Have been very busy all day, tho' I went down to the church, this afternoon to a Committee-meeting - David Owen, May Roberts, Con Osborne, Rev. Schell and myself. And now they tell us, there is no Peace - the announcement was premature. But I believe it is true. Our Harmon girls are both very low and little hope for their lives, due to the dreadful accident yesterday.

Sat. 9th A very beautiful day. Have been baking, cleaning, mending all day. This afternoon, Jack Miller called with a friend, both Washburn S.A.T.C. boys.

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Sun. 10 A pretty good sort of day, but cold - we had a fire in the Grate. The Influenza Ban was lifted last night at midnight and most churches had services today, but we did not go, because, our church has been closed so long and is so poorly ventilated and no one knew ban was to be lifted, in time to air it.

Sara Dwyre called a moment today. Florence Pennell came out awhile this evening to say "Goodbye" as she leaves Tues. morning to make her home with her father in Los Angeles; evidently some trouble, somewhere, her leaving is so sudden. Luther Davis and Margaret Officer came out this evening; the big rocker was занятъ for two, when pulled up cozily, in front of an open grate fire.

Mon. 11 A grand day, an ideal day, and World Peace at last - Germany has signed the "Peace" terms. At three o'clock this morning, or to be exact, 3:15, I was awoken by the blowing of whistles, I knew it meant a fire in Santa Fe shops, or Peace, so I got out of bed to look at the clock and it was 3:15 - which would be 9 o'clock in France; the Germans were given until 9 o'clock Nov. 11, 1918 to sign the terms of Peace, or there would be no Peace so I knew the whistles were blowing for Peace. And almost immediately, guns were being fired bells rung, people shouting and a tremendous din everywhere - no more sleep but it

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was glorious to lie in bed and listen to the city's expression of joy. When we got up I hung out "Old Glory", the Tri-color and Union Jack. I did my washing as usual and cleaned up the house; Teddy was to be in the "Peace Parade" so hadn't time to come home to dinner. I received a telegram from Elmo Madden (one of my old Sun School boys) that he would pass thro' Topeka at 2:45 P.M. enroute from Eugene, Oregon to Camp Taylor Kentucky, so I dressed and left house at 1:40 and walked the three miles to L.P. depot in North Topeka. His train was on time and held here a long time, blocked by the Peace Parade so that I had a fine visit with Elmo. Teddy left the Parade at the depot and stayed with me to visit with Elmo - also Dewey Goddard an old Topeka boy, now of Calif. enroute to Camp Taylor. Sure was fine to see the boys again - both looked splendid. After the Parade and the boys had gone, Teddy and I walked back to Transfer Sta. 8th & Kansas Ave where we waited for the street cars, and rode home. All the cars quit running at 10 o'clock P.M. and began again at 4 o'clock. A big, big parade, made up of everything imaginable noise and bands and people - wholly indescribable - noise provided out of everything that noise could be provided out of: every kind of whistle and bells, strings of old tin cans whoops and hoots and yells, big and little

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old and young, every color and nationality - and the streets jammed, going in every direction, everyone hilariously happy because we licked the Kaiser - we helped with America's best young men - flags, flags, flags, everywhere: & it was all wonderfully thrilling and wholly indescribable: began at 3 o'clock this morning and continued until midnight, tonight Teddy and I, went to the Orpheum, - after Supper to see the war pictures and see John Barrington and Lois Meredith in Maries.

Thank God for Peace, and may it be an everlasting Peace.

Tues. 12 Gold, cloudy. Writing letters today, this most too happy to do anything but rejoice over Peace.

Wed. 13 A rather nice day, but windy. I made a fine fruit-cake today, to send to one of my boys Earl Bruce, Co. A. 116 Eng. in France. He had no mother, no sister, so sent his Christmas slip to me, and I sure feel highly honored; he asked if not too much bother, would I make him a fruit cake - bother? why who would not be tickled to death to be so honored. And I made the very best I could get material to make, and was throues making it, because of many interruptions of Phone & Calls - Mrs. McEachron on Boy Scout work - Don Estorn Honor Roll work; Mrs. Rehington and Bettie.

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Thurs. 14 Cold and rainy. I went to town after dinner and mailed a beautiful, three pound fruit cake to Earl Bence in France - all they would allow me to send tho' I made about 15 lbs. of cake. I iced it all over, white. I did a bit of shopping, bought an umbrella, \$3. " at Peltier's. Then went to call at Mrs. Shelden's on W-10-st, to see Mabel who has had an operation - Also called to see Mrs. J. T. Davis 1012 Polk (wasn't home) to leave a bit of fruit cake for Harry's Christmas-box ^{and} to leave a picture of Harry I had tinted - very pretty with the tinted flags.

Fri. 15 Rained all day, but I went to a meeting of the C.W.B.M. at Mrs. E.C. V. King's 1213 W-10-st. Good crowd present and good time. Mr. Teddy Grose & Ethel Gaster Guther Davis and Margaret Officer, came in for the evening.

Sat. 16 Cold, gloomy day. I baked lovely bread, pies etc and put more stars on the church Service Flag. Worked all day hard. Jack Miller ^{Musserell 117 French} and a soldier friend, called this afternoon - both S.A.T.C. boys at Washburn. I had to do a bit of War Work canvassing, over phone and see Mrs. Q. Goddington personally, but she would not give a cent! They are slackers alright, my! my!!

Sun. 17 A cold, rainy, day. We went to S. Paul Church. This afternoon, Mrs. John White & Mrs. Claude Smith (Dr.), Jack Miller, Helen Rolley, Bob Simpson, Bernice Heath, John Keating, Miss Hoffman, were here and this evening Carl Swanson, Jack & Helen came - Young folks bring sunshine!

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Mon. 18 Sunny, but very cold wind. Fred home, having a day of "vacation" to work at home - he made an asbestos shield to put behind the heater and I "blackened" the heater and we put it up for the Winter. We started to build a "scratch" pen for our chickens, but didn't get much done. A big, beautiful, full moon tonight - a grand night.

Tues. 19 A grand day. Fred working. I went to town this morning to do a bit of shopping, and pay our taxes which were outrageously high - over \$5. - Bought a new pink georgette Crepe, waist \$7.50 but did not fit well, so after dinner I took it back and exchanged for one that did. This evening Fred and I went for a call on the Dennis' at 1030 Buchanan, then down to 315 W-13th to see our lovely Harmon girls who were badly hurt in the first Peace celebration - both girls are getting on fine. Katherine is the worst hurt, but Betty looks the worst.

Wed. 20 Cold, mist and almost sleet. Very busy all day mending. Carrie Niede, spent afternoon with me.

Thurs. 21 Not cold, but wet, sloppy, raining and snow showers! I went to "Y.W." to a meeting of Good Government Club, this afternoon. Because of the "Flu" and stormy day, was only six present but we discussed some very important affairs - one thing at my suggestion, a new Transfer Station. We need it.

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Fri. 22 A mighty nasty day, a rain, snow-storm. Very busy writing letters, mending etc. I spent two hours this morning, dyeing Fred's coat - overcoat - with Aladdin dye, or "Rit" and did a pretty good job - looks well.

Sat. 23 Another day of "rain, snow-storm" but not cold. I put a new velvet collar on Teddy's, overcoat, and did a lot of work, and a lot of writing. Busy, my! my!..

Sun. 24 Cold, rain, snow, and sunshine - just "Kansas in one of her moods." I went to Sunday School this morning but came home, after. Fred stayed home, just to rest a little. I read a letter to the S.S. this morning, from Harry Davis also a commendatory letter, from his Chaplain, Rev. Blackburn of 130 Field Artillery and received much applause - our church has been very slow to "take notice" of its members in the Service and I thought I would "wake them up." This afternoon, Robt. Simpson, Frank Leonard, Leuthar Davis, Jack Miller, Helen Polley, Carl Swanson, Ann Bowerlin, Moma & Carrie Wieble came out and it seemed quite like old times. But tonight we sit by our "Inglenook" alone.

Mon. 25 Some more rain, snow, cold, tho' my very large two weeks washing dried out doors - froze too. Teddy home to dinner. I went to C.W.B.M. aux. at Mrs. W.H. Rogers 1193 College, this afternoon - good meeting.

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Tues. 26 An ideal day - bright, beautiful, sunny.

I ironed until 12:30, then ate dinner with my good Teddy, left the table sitting with all its dirty dishes, and hurried away to meet Mrs. W.H. Rogers at 114 Washburn to make church Calls. I called on Mrs. J. Barry at 1148 Washburn (not home) before Mrs. Rogers came, then met her at 114 Grand and called on Mrs. Hugh Morland 1144 Grand then to Dr. C.G. Smith's 1156 Mulvane then Mrs. Scott Mulvane Mrs. Stewart 1133 Morriside (not home) then Mrs. P.Q. Howe 1131 Morris, then Mrs. Fitzgerald 1015 Garfield (not home) then Dr. Iserman's 1013 Garfield, then home. We also called on Mrs. Jackson 1190 Brooks and she was not home. But we had a very happy afternoon, tho' I had to leave much work undone and work much harder when got home.

Wed. 27 Cold, cloudy and began raining about noon and grew much harder each hour of the day and at dark began snowing, heavy and hard. I have been so busy all day. Cousin Frank Van Orndol, came at noon and brought us a load of cobs as a present. He is his little Irish mother all over again. After dinner as I was dressing to go to Judge J.O. Farland's funeral, one of my long-absent, boys, Walter Polley, came so I did not go to the funeral of Judge M. Farland. Had such a happy visit with Walter. Teddy bought a young goose for Thanksgiving, today \$2.80.

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Thurs. 28 Showed when we awakened this morning, but by noon the sun was shining bright and warm and beautiful and took all the exquisite beauty from the trees, fences and shrubs - everything was covered deep with soft, feathery snow, this morning and so wonderfully beautiful, I hated to see the sun come out and spoil it.

"Thanksgiving Day" and what a Day - while it is wholly an American day, yet today the whole wide world should celebrate it with us, for the most, brutally fiendish, of all the Wars of the Ages, has come to an end, and we have Peace - great glorious, Peace, for which we thank God with all our very being. Some way, I am dumb with thankfulness. I am so thankful, I cannot find words, to express myself.

This evening, Edwin Jones, John treatingrd their friend Kenneth Gorrell, Robt. Simpson-Helen Creeper, John Carlson-Dorothy Creeper, Shelley Monroe and Sallie Slaughter came in for short calls.

I roasted a fine young goose, (\$8.0) and made pumpkin pies.

Fri. 29 A splendidly fine day - all sunshine and blue sky.

Fred's mail heavy so not home to dinner. This evening Walter Polley, Blanche Pittenger, Robert Simpson and Luther Davis came in for the evening.

Sat. 30 A perfectly grand day. Fred heavy mail - not home noon.

Gora Finch-Jenkins came to stay over night. A very busy day for me - all kinds of work.

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Sun. 1st Most all day was dark and cold and still and just on the verge of snow, then at 3 o'clock the sun burst thru' the clouds in warm golden sunshine and drove the clouds away and the day finished in a fine winter glow at sunset.

Cora Finch-Jenkins (an old schoolmate of Winfield) spent the day with me - and how our tongues flew in talk, of old times and old friends, of school-days, back in 1884-85, in old Winfield, Kansas High School. This evening Cora went to Mrs. Knisely's for supper and to stay over night. This afternoon

Robt. Simpson, Frank Leonard, Merle Allton and Luther Davis came out. And this evening, Luther Davis, Helen Campbell, Ernest Sheldon and wife Earl Palmer and Gillian Huckle, Merle Allton and Agnes Wohler came in for the evening and we had such a happy evening, around a cheery, grate fire. Miss Huckle played the piano beautifully and Luther and Helen kept the Victrola busy.

Mon. 2 All golden sunshine and blue sky over-head, with a bit of snow and green lawn, beneath, the "makeup" of a "Perfect Day" in winter in Kansas. Mrs. Canos, called me Sat. to tell me, my metime friend "Jossie" (Mrs. A. E. Jones) divorced, is married again - lives in Denver - has now two divorced husbands and a living

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one, or the present husband - well I hope she has a good man, for she is a good woman, but there is no man living, that she can get along with. Mail heavy and Fred not home to dinner at noon. I spent the whole day writing - put off writing to write my Soldier boys.

Tues. 3rd Another fine day, and we are thankful for every day of sunshine - the Flu rages, and everything is shut tight again; & we have some fine Officials in this old Town - some real "La-la-loos", yeah! I have written letters all day, to my Soldier boys.

Wed. 4 A most splendid day. I cleaned the whole house from top to bottom and wrote some letters too. I called on the Reynolds, new neighbors on the north of us, too - there are 9 in family and several of them in bed, with the Influenza. A boy of about 14 and girl possibly 18 - are only ones up - I did not go in house of course, but offered to cook for them in my own home.

This evening, Misses Adella Agnes Wohler, Art Saville Elinor Eckert, Ronald McCord, Margaret Pettyjohn Earl Palmer and Miss Dougherty came out and spent the evening with us, to dance and "make merry". Every thing is closed and there is no place for young folks to go so they come to we, old folks, and we are glad.