

# Kansas Memory



## Martha Farnsworth diary

### Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

Martha Van Orsdol Shaw Farnsworth kept a personal diary from 1882 through 1922 with only a few gaps. The diary starts when she is a teenager. It describes her daily activities as she was growing up in Winfield and later Silver Lake and Topeka. She married John W. Shaw on September 4, 1889, and he died of consumption on October 26, 1893. He works for the post office. Many of Martha's diary entries are very emotional. From the beginning of her marriage, Martha expresses her unhappiness in her marriage. It seems to stem from Johnny's drinking and his anger when he was intoxicated. During the time period covered by this volume, Martha lives in Topeka and seems content in her marriage to Fred Farnsworth. She has extensive contact with extended family and Fred and Martha visit her father in Springfield, Colorado. It is possible that this diary was rewritten from an earlier version because some entries are underlined in red.

Creator: Farnsworth, Martha 1867-1924

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Martha Farnsworth diary



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## Martha Farnsworth diary

New Years Day. 201 Topeka Ave

Wed. Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1896

The begining of a New Year in my life and I pray the Heavenly Master, to be with me, thro' every day, & help me to live without offense before Him; to guide, gaurd & direct me; that He will help me to live closer to Him throughout the coming year, than I have ever lived before; help me to be just what, He would have me to be.

Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Bauer called just after Tea. Fred & I spent the evening with Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bair, in Lawrence Hill. We were going skating, but the ice was no good.

Thurs. 2 Am half dead with a cold.

Fri. 3 Am feeling better today.

Sat. 4 Fred & I went to Library Hall this evening, to hear read, - with "living illustrations" and some 150 views - a little story, by Miss Mary Frost of this city, called "Once upon a Time". It was very good & something unusual.

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Sun. 5 Jan. 1896 We went to Church (First Christian) this evening <sup>2d</sup> Rev. D. D. Boyle preached from Isaiah 11:12-21 The Church was packed; He is a very eloquent speaker.

Mon. 6 Mrs. W. C. Baker and Mata Magert called this afternoon. Fred <sup>and</sup> I went to Church again this evening, as there is to be a Revival held. Rev. Boyle preached from John 4:22-33

Tues. 7 We went to Church again this evening <sup>2d</sup> Rev. Boyle's subject was "He lingered." Gen. 19:16

Wed. 8 I spent the afternoon with Mrs. John Van Vester. Fred & I went to church this evening. Rev. Boyle's subject was "Son remember," Luke 16:25 Bro. Boyle is such a splendid talker, that tho' his sermons are long, the time passes very quickly; he uses no notes, but preaches straight from the Bible and has a very pleasing personality. Mr. Crawford joined this eve with church.

Thurs. 9 We went to Church this evening. Text Romans 12:2 subject I beseech you. While we all love our dear Bro. Smith, every one is becoming just as fond of Bro. Boyle and there is no question, about his being a much better speaker and has finer Pulpit appearance.

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Fri. 10 Jan. 1896 I spent the afternoon at Mrs. John Mileham's; her eldest son is slowly dying of consumption, brought on by his own dissipated life, but the poor fellow, has repented to late to save his life.

Cousin Frank Van Orsdol, came to stay over night with us and he went to Church this evening with Fred and me. Text Numbers 24:17 Subject "I shall see him." Rev. D.D. Boyle preached.

Sat. 11 We went after supper, down on Brauner St. to Mr. John Lowe's on business, about our new home we are buying from him, then went to church. Mr. Crawford was Baptized.

Sun. 12 We went to church this evening and there was an awful crowd; we had to sit on the Pulpit rostrum. Subject of Bro. Boyle's sermon "Christ crucified and sins leading to Crucifixion". One woman united with church.

Mon. 13 Grand day and most of forenoon at Mrs. McDowell's, talking of our new home. Fred went to see Mr. Lowe after supper and I went to church with Mrs. James Burgess, Mrs. Sadie Hodges and Mr. John Van Beekler, and Fred met me at church.

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Tues. 14 Jan. 1896 Dave Stone called this forenoon. Dave and I have been acquainted since childhood, in the old home, in Floral Gavely Co., near Winfield; have known him since he was in dresses, but each has grown up and left the old home and I have married for the second time and lost trace of many old friends, but recently I have seen him pass my home and was sure it was Dave, but he gave no sign of recognition, and I was afraid I might be mistaken. But this morning when I saw him passing I ran out and hailed him and sure enough it was my old neighbor and schoolmate: So he came to tea and to spend the evening and how our tongues did fly, talking over old days and old friends. Eva Herman spent afternoon with me and also took tea with us and spent evening.

Wed. 15 Snowed a little last night. We went to church this evening. Rev. Boyle's subject was "No room for Christ."

Thurs. 16 Aunt Samantha Van Qrosdol and Eva Lowell-Cox came to dinner and spent the afternoon. Fred and I went to church this evening; a bad night and not many out. Mr. F. Dandy sang a fine song.

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Fri. 17 Jan. 1896 Mrs. J. Mileham and Mrs. d'Urein called this evening. We went to church. Mrs. John Van Rechten, united with the church.

Sat. 18 Mrs. Matthews and her father-in-law Mr. M. called to see me this morning; just came to town from Springfield Colo. where my folks live; both here to "doctor"; Mr. Matthews for a Cancer. Eva Cox and Lila Pliley spent afternoon with me and staid to tea. Mrs. Matthews staid all night with us. Fred and I went to church.

Sun. 19 Misty day. Mr. Matthews called this morning and with Mrs. M. went out to Valencia. We went to church this evening and was a good crowd tho' such a bad night.

Mon. 20 Foggy and damp and busy home day. Dear sister Belle, would be 26 yrs. old today if living.

Tues. 21 Rainy. H. Bair called a moment this morning. Rev. Boyle and Mrs. J. Burgess Called this afternoon and Mrs. Mileham called this evening.

Wed. 22 Rained and snowed all day and very disagreeable and my poor Freddie must work in it all day.

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Thurs. 23 Jan. 1896 Snowed quite a little last night and snowing today. wish Fred didn't have to be in it.

Fri. 24 Our neighbor, Elwood Milham, died at 2 o'clock this morning, and little George Raehr died at 4 o'clock this afternoon. My little Mabel Ivez, my own, "wee" treasure, would be four years old today, if living; my heart will never cease its longing, for the precious one.

Sat. 25 Uncle Marian Van Arsdol, came down from Silver Lake, today <sup>2d</sup> and brought a dressed hog, or rather a Shoate, weighing 160 pounds, <sup>2d</sup> now we will have some good meat <sup>2d</sup> lard. Uncle staid to dinner.

Sun. 26 Fred <sup>and</sup> I spent the afternoon <sup>and</sup> to tea <sup>out</sup> Harry Bair's, then went to church and the house was just packed. Subject of sermon "What shall I do with Christ, whom they call Jesus." Every one is falling in love with our Bro. Boyle.

Mon. 27 with Fred to Elwood Milham's funeral at 11 o'clock, Mrs. S. J. Hodges <sup>and</sup> I rode to the cemetery in J. K. Jones rig. Very cold. Mr. Zimmerman who lives next door to the Milham's <sup>and</sup> across the street from us <sup>Mr. Matthews called this afternoon</sup> died today.

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Tues. 28 Jan. 1896 Miss Philpot called this afternoon. States, things came today; she is to come and keep house for father, tho' he told me, he would rather [she did not]; that he would rather have Fred & I with him, but Kate was determined to come and [so] it helped her to run us out, by high rent.

Wed. 29 Mr. Zimmerman was buried today.  
Mr. & Mrs. Sad J. Hodges took tea with us this evening.

Thurs. 30 Awful muddy and foggy too. We spent the evening with Mr. & Mrs. John Milham and met their daughter, Mrs. Pierson, whom I do not like very well; she seems inclined to gossip and make sport of every one.

Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Very, very busy today; but have much to do  
always

Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. Up town shopping this afternoon;  
awfully muddy

Sun. 2 Fred & I went to church this evening Text II Sam. 18:29-32 Rev. Boyle is the most eloquent speaker, I ever heard. He is a handsome man, dark, and a Southerner, - Paris, Tex. - of very pleasing personality.

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Mon. 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 1896 A fine day and Mrs.

Matthews, called, this afternoon. Fred & I went to Mr. A. D. Robbins Office - Notary Public this evening at 7:30 and met Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Lavar and made the first payment \$50.00 on our new home, 1017 Brooks Ave. It seems to bad, to leave Father and to take Fred from the only home he has ever had, but we can't pay, \$25.00 per month rent and keep up all expenses beside, and sister Kate will keep house for Father tho' will make it expensive for him. But it is all her and Oito doings and we shall be glad to be free from so much expense and we is so independent in their own home.

Tues. 4 We went up to Mr. Robbins, Office this evening, to see Mr. Lavar, again.

Wed. 5 Cloudy, misty day and most buy one for me.

Thurs. 6 Father, Fred & I spent the evening with Mrs. P. Zimmerman. Snowed.

Fri. 7 Cold today and a deep, soft snow lies on the ground; it is so beautiful.

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Sat. 8 Feb. 1896 Working on some quilts<sup>and</sup>  
otherwise, preparing for our new home.

Sun. 9 We went to Church this evening.

Prof. Hill preached from St. John 10:10.

He "caint hold a candle" to Bro. Boyle.

Mond. 10 Spent the afternoon at Col. Burgess'  
and met a Miss Ellis, there.

Tues. 11 Rev. D. D. Boyle, spent the day  
with us<sup>and</sup> I enjoyed him, immensely.

Wed. 12 Uncle Marian, took dinner with us today.  
and brought me, Butter, Eggs, Cream and  
Buttermilk. Rained <sup>and</sup> snowed; awful sloppy.

Thurs. 13 A grand day. Cousin Tom Garsdol  
took dinner with.

Fri. 14 Mr. Jacob Wolfe, an old Army Comrade  
of my father's, whom I have not seen  
since I was a little girl, and cousin  
Mandy Anderson, from Floral - near Minfield  
County Co., took dinner with us today.

Sat. 15 Called to see Mrs. Matthew 307 East 8<sup>th</sup> St,  
this afternoon, but was not home. Fred &  
I went out to Mr. Donnell's in Lawrence Hill this  
evening, to get him to build a kitchen to our new  
home and then to the meat market.

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Sun. 16 Feb. 1896 We went to Church this evening  
Bro. Boyle took for Text 1<sup>st</sup> Corin. 15: 49

Mon. 17 An awfully busy day. Mrs. Hulitt called  
this morning.

Tues. 18 Went up town at noon with Fred to do  
a little shopping.

Wed. 19 Very busy all day.

Thurs. 20 Another busy day and I fret and worry  
because of Goito's unkindness; I don't see how  
he can be so unjust. I am only sorry for  
dear old father, who simply cannot bear  
to have us move out: for ourselves, I shall  
be glad, to be rid of so much expense and to  
have the independence one enjoys in their  
own home.

Fri. 21 Cousin Will Van Cressel & Minnie Vandemark  
came down from Silver Lake, this evening  
and staid all night with us.

Sat. 22 Cousin Will and Minnie Vandemark spent  
the day with us. Rained. Fred had a  
half Holiday and so was home this afternoon.  
Mr. Connell called this evening to see our  
plans for the kitchen, he is to build us, out  
at our new home.

Sun. 23 A grand day and we spent the afternoon  
at Finch Shows on East Tenth St., and  
went to Church this evening. We  
have such a splendid Minister.

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Mon. 24 Feb. 1896 Grace Akin came at noon, from Quailia and her mother will come later: are getting in a hurry to push Fred & I out. When father wanted Kate to keep house, for him, she would not do it, and now she is out of a home, with her son-in-law, she is determined to come here and make Fred & I get out. Well we are very willing, only do not like the manner and hate to hurt poor father, as it will. Cousin Manly Anderson came, this afternoon and staid over night with us.

Tues. 25 Cousin Manly A. left for home this morning, in southern Kansas.

Wed. 26 Aunt Sallie Ogden called this afternoon; Anna Durbin and I played Tennis, this evening, on our Court.

Thurs. 27 A fine day and too busy to enjoy it.

Fri. 28 Little cooler today, and makes the work go easier, for I have more to do since Grace [came].

Sat. 29 Baking, cleaning, etc etc.

Sun. March 1<sup>st</sup> Father and Grace, went to Church, with Fred and me, this evening. One person was Baptized and 3 others made the good confession.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Mon. 2 March 1896 "My busy day."

Tues. 3 Snowed most all forenoon. This afternoon, I went to a "Farewell Reception" for Mrs. B. L. Smith, at Col. James Burgess.

Wed. 4 "Busy as a Bee". Grace does not act kindly toward me at all, and keeps hinting would like us to get out at once.

Thurs. 5 Mata Magel and Anna Durein, here this afternoon. Little Lucien Stauffer was run over and killed in Chicago, by the street cars today, I read in paper. He was such a sweet child. I used to make my home, with them and loved the little fellow very dearly. 'Twill nearly kill his parents.

Fri. 6 I spent the afternoon with Mrs. Harry Bair in Lawrence Hill, and Fred stopped for me, on his way from work.

Sat. 7 Mr. Andy Hulitt, here to dinner and to spend the afternoon. A beautiful day.

Sun. 8 Another beautiful day. We went to church this evening.

Mon. 9 Andy Hulitt here all afternoon visiting with Grace. Anna Durein also here.

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Tues. 10 March 1886 After dinner Fred took me as far as 6<sup>th</sup> St., where I took car and went out and spent afternoon, with Mrs. W.C. Baker and he came there for me, after he got thro' work and brought me to 6<sup>th</sup> and Topeka Ave, from where I walked home, while he went on to P.Q. with his mail. We spent the evening at Col. J. Burgess, with the Samsons, playing High Five. A most jolly evening. Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Samson, Mr. & Mrs. Sad Hodgins, Mr. & Mrs. John Van Dechtere, the Burgess' and ourselves, made up a merry crowd. Refreshments were served after the game.

Wed. 11 Went up town, with Anna Durenir this afternoon and bought the book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," as I have never read it.

Thurs. 12 Busy at home; will soon move.

Fri. 13 Cold, and snowed most all day.

Sat. 14 Snowed most all day. Mrs. Durenir Mrs. Wielzel, Mrs. John Bauer, went to the Rep. Primary Election, in Topeka this afternoon to vote: voted for Col. Burgess & Mr. Squires.

Sun. 15 We went to Church this evening and heard the usual good sermon by Bro. Boyle.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Mon. 16 March 1896 Rode up town with Fred after dinner and then went to Col. Burgess' to spend the afternoon.

Tues. 17 Mrs. Zimmerman and Alice and Mrs. M. C. Geary called this afternoon. Every one thinks Kate and Grace are treating Fred & I shamefully.

Wed. 18 A good day to stay at home. Rain, snow, sleet, sun, wind and clouds

Thurs. 19 A busy day and none too happy these times. Grace is not pleasant.

Fri. 20 I will really be glad when we get moved, so to be away from Grace.

Sat. 21 The busiest kind of a day, for me.

Sun. 22 Mr. & Mrs. John Runyan and Sad Hodgins, called this afternoon. We went to church this evening and there was a good audience, in spite of rain, sleet & snow. Rev. Boyle preached St. John 19: 6

Mon. 23 We went to a "Fancy-party" tonight at Miss Edith Metcalf's 817 Monroe; first going in to M. & Aurelia and Mr. Cartidges, that they might see our costumes, then went to Col. Burgess' and from there, with Will Burgess, Mr. & Mrs. John Van Beeter, Mrs. Sad Hodgins, Miss Kahr, Mr. Tottingham Hodgins and Mr. H. Hodgins. Fred wore white plug hat, his pants in his boots and fathers long coat & vest filled out with pillows, my dress was trimmed with carpet-rag fringe from head to foot: had a Royal train.

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Tues. 24 March 1896 So sleepy today; up late last night, but we had such a grand good time.

Wed. 25 Such a pretty day; Eva called to see me, this afternoon, and Mr. & Mrs. S. J. Hodgins, spent evening with us.

Thurs. 26 We went out to our new house, this evening to set out some shrubs.

Fri. 27 Fred not working this afternoon and we went to Cases Law Office, to meet Eva Herman and her Lawyer, Mrs. D. C. Case and over to Court House at 1 o'clock P.M. where Eva's divorce trial was to be tried. Eva's divorce was not contested and she was granted everything: her husband, ran off a year ago, with another woman, who was the mother of five children. When we got to the Court House, Mrs. Tillie Sloan-Hitt, who sued her husband A. J. Hitt, for divorce, had her trial called first and it being contested, took the whole afternoon. Al Hitt was a brute and ought to have been ashamed to appear in Court; he was caught stealing from his employer and his employer was in Court as witness against him; he was proven an adulterer by the girl he wronged, appearing against him. Eva's trial was called at 5:40 and divorce granted in five minutes, Eva with us to Church partly this evening at John Gardner's in Godman Hill. Had a good time.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Sat. 28 March 1896 An awful windy day but no dust, for we had a rain last night.  
*201 Topaz Ave.*

Sun. 29 Fred went to P.Q. this after-noon, with Sad Hodgins, to a meeting of the Mail Carriers who are working to get pay, for "overtime". We went to church this evening.

Mon. 30 We drove out to our new home this evening, 1017 Brooks Ave, to set out some roses and plant potatoes etc, and we spent evening with Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Roby, who live in our house.

Tues. 31 We drove down to Mr. John Davis's this evening, to make another payment on our home & then went to Jim Shaws to spend the evening. Turned very cold this evening.

Wed. Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> Very cold. Went up town this afternoon.

Thurs. Apr. 2 Aunt Samantha Van Era Cox & Harry Bair here for dinner; this afternoon, went to Horticultural meeting at Court House, with Aunt S. & Mrs. Cox. Mr. Wellhouse of Leavenworth, "passed around" some very fine Jonathan Apples, which had been in cold storage since first of last Sept. Fred & I called at H. Bair's this evening, on our way to spend evening with Chas. Roby's, to meet Bess Roby an old friend, from my old home.

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201 Topeka Ave

Fri. Apr. 3 - 1896 Warmer today. Fred had an awful heavy mail and did not get home for dinner until 1:05. We drove out to our home this evening to make some more garden. Kate Albin came on the evening train and now we won't be long in getting out. Grace has done all she could to hurry us out; giving me many hints to hurry up: she is so disagreeable.

Sat. 4 We moved a load of our "stuff," (canned fruit, empty cans etc) out to our home tonight, on Brooks Ave. We just have built on a new kitchen and live in that until our renters can find a house to move into.

Sun. 5 Rained most all day. My Freddie and I went to church this evening.

Mon. 6 We went out to 1017 Brooks Ave this evening with some more of our things.

Tues. 7 Out to our home this evening, with some more "trucks".

Wed. 8 Fred "laid off" this afternoon, to finish our moving. He took me up town, where I made a few necessary purchases, then took car, and he drove out, to our new home. Oh! how hard it rained. And tonight we ate supper in our own home and are independent of any one. Spent evening, in with Roby's.

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Thurs. 9 April 1896 1017 Brooks Ave.  
A beautiful day <sup>and</sup> I have been  
cleaning and settling our few possessions  
in our one room, <sup>and</sup> tonight, we are quite  
"cozy": the Robes who live in the house, have not  
yet, found a place to move <sup>and</sup> we are living in  
one room until they get out, but they let me  
put my Piano in their parlor. We have a set  
of dishes <sup>and</sup> few silver-spoons <sup>and</sup> a splendid  
Gasoline stove, then we bought a kitchen table  
and two kitchen chairs <sup>and</sup> with these we will  
do "light housekeeping" until we get our house  
in the shape we want it; we will just  
camp for this summer: we have a mattress  
and plenty of bedding <sup>and</sup> will put right down  
on the floor as have no bedstead, and we  
will sleep "soundly" <sup>and</sup> well" and are Oh! so  
independent; here, Goit cannot say "do this  
or that" and Kate cannot come in <sup>and</sup> run  
us off." Goit, Kate, Grace <sup>and</sup> Min, thought we would  
have to pay \$25. <sup>a</sup> per month rent; we had  
nothing <sup>and</sup> could not buy a place, but while we  
have nothing, yet we have bought a place, tho'  
some of them doubt it <sup>and</sup> think we are  
lying, but, they don't know who they are  
dealing with. I am able to run my  
own affairs. I can take care of myself  
and Fred too, if I have to.

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1017 Brooks Ave.

Fri 10 Apr. 1896

Home yes spent the day in my own home, mine and Freddie's, and made garden, for we have two lots and can have a good small garden. Awful windy. The house at 201 Topeka Ave, was the only home Fred ever had <sup>and</sup> only place he ever lived until we bought this <sup>and</sup> to move from that large pleasant home into this "little cottage" must make him lonely, yet he seems so happy and contented; but I know it hurt poor father very much <sup>and</sup> I dared not tell him we were going to move; had to just "run away." We all ate dinner together <sup>and</sup> when tea-time came, Fred <sup>and</sup> I were gone and father did not know; it hurt me to do it, but I had to; father just would not consent to our going, and Kate & Grace, were determined we had to <sup>and</sup> lied about us, to friends. Father told me if Fred & I ever left, we left against his will. He wanted us to stay and keep house for him and Kate to move into her own little home and he would help her there but she absolutely would not <sup>and</sup> thought she had a right to come in and drive us out.

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Sat. 11 Apr. 1896 Another awfully windy day; So nice to be in our own home; why I have nothing at all to do: cook for two, wash dishes for two and play rest of time.

Sun. 12 Rained most of the day and I visited in the rooms of Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Roby with they and Bess Roby. This evening Fred & I walked down to church; we have some distance to go now.

Mon. 13 "Love in a Cottage" and what happiness it brings, when that cottage is yours.

Tues. 14 Awfully windy. Fred took me to see a "wash woman" this evening. Mrs. P. D. Davis (Coal)

Wed. 15 Another awfully windy day and hot: 90° about all I can do, is to sit and hold my hands.

Thurs. 16 Fred & I spent the evening at father's.

Fri. 17 Moved the last of our "things" from father's today: just little "odds and ends."

Sat. 18 We took a car down to "Ingleside" after supper and spent evening with Aunt Lou Stoddard; walked home; beautiful moonlight.

Sun. 19 We spent afternoon at Harry Bairns, stopping a moment at Mrs. Fell's. H. Bairn Dave Stone, Bess Roby and Mrs. Fell, walked down to church with Fred and I this evening.

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1017 Brooks Ave.

Mon. 20 Apr. 1896 We spent the evening over in Parkdale, at John Runyan's. Idola gave me, her and baby Winfield's picture. I am reading "The Tale of the Lobano," by A.J. Evans.

Tues. 21 We went down to Col. Burgess' this evening, to a Complaint Social. Had the jolliest time: it was a Church affair.

Wed. 22 Received a pair of silk gloves and Fred a pair of dog-skin gloves, and a lovely "Gray Wolf" rug, today, from sister and the folks at home (Springfield Colo.) for our Birthdays.

Thurs. 23 Just sitting at home, doing nothing.

Fri. 24 Fred is 88 years old today <sup>and</sup> we are happy in our own little home.

Sat. 25 Am reading Camille by d'Urmas. Don't like it; terrible book I think.

Sun. 26 We spent afternoon in at C. W. Roby's. Jim Shaw and family called this evening and Charlie and Mila Roby, Miss Curry, Bert Bair Harry Bair, Bess Roby and Mrs. Fell, went to church with Fred & I this evening at 1<sup>st</sup> Christian. I am 29 yrs. old today. Lovely moonlight.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

- Mon. 27 Apr. 1896 1017 Brooks Ave.  
We went to Mr. D. Shook's  
this evening to a Church Musicale, at  
579 Clay St. Had a most delightful  
evening. Splendid music and lots of it, of all  
kinds, beside Whistling and recitations.
- Tues. 28 Rained almost the whole day and  
part of the time very hard. Am reading  
"At Last" by Marian Harland.
- Wed. 29 Rained some and cold, but Fred and I went  
down to Mrs. Herren's on East 7<sup>th</sup> St., this  
evening, to some more "Church doin's,"  
"Theatricals," and 'twas just grand: fixed the  
rooms, to look like a Theatre, with a pretty  
little Stage, Piano for the "Orchestra" and chairs  
and Boxes. Mr. C. Smith, Mr. Reed, Mr. John Van Vechten  
Miss Rae Chesney, Miss Clara Herron and Mrs.  
McArthur, was the "Company" that did the  
"Acting" and all did splendidly.
- Thurs. 30 Another day at home sweet home"  
doing nothing. I'm afraid I'll get lazy.
- Fri. May 1<sup>st</sup> Gold. Fred and I took little  
Ethel Roby and went down to spend the  
evening with father. Kate & Grace are never  
home, or always go away, when we come.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Sat. May 2<sup>nd</sup> / 1896

A beautiful day like it  
was two years ago on our Wedding-  
day, for this is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
and Fred has been such a dear good husband.

Sun. 3 Fred walked with me as far as H. Bair's  
this morning on way to P.Q. and Harry & Lizzie Bair  
Bess Roby and Bert Bair, walked to Church with  
me. Bert united with the Church, coming  
from the Methodist. This evening, Mr. & Mrs. H. Bair  
Frank Roby, Mrs. Fell and Mrs. Bess Roby, went  
to church with Fred & I. Bert Bair was Baptized.

Mon. 4 Rained awfully hard this morning. We  
spent the evening at Harry Bair's to bid  
Bess Roby goodbye, as she goes home  
tomorrow to our old home in Cowley Co., KS,  
Floral, near Winfield, where we were all old  
friends in happy days of the Past.

Tues. 5 Charlie Roby is moved out today and  
now we will have all our house nice day.

Wed. 6 We called at Father's this evening, then  
went to another Church affair, Ice Cream  
Social, at Rose Smith's, at 1<sup>st</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> Topeka Ave.  
and we had our usual, big crowd and  
good time. Our Church people are all  
so nice.

# Kansas Memory



## Martha Farnsworth diary

Thurs. 7 May 1896 Home, trying to make my rooms look "home-like" with nothing.

Fri. 8 Our home, looks bare, but we don't want to buy anything until we remodel the house and we are very short of money.

Sat. 9 We have nothing in our home, and are very "close run", yet we are buying our home <sup>and</sup> are happy! I have my bare floors as white as, soap, hot water and a scrub brush, will make them. I have one pretty wolf rug, which I placed in front of a Bench, I made myself <sup>and</sup> covered, then I have a box, covered <sup>and</sup> two chairs. I got at grocery, common, manila wrapping paper <sup>and</sup> made window shades, and we have our Piano, <sup>and</sup> we have music in our home <sup>and</sup> are happy: we are just "camping" this summer; we will "furnish" this Fall, when we have "saved up" enough money.

Sun. 10 Eva Herman, spent the day with us and is the first, to eat a meal with us. Harry Bair <sup>and</sup> family called, in late afternoon and all went to Charlie Roby's. Charlie & Mila went to church with us evening.

Mon. 11 Just awfully windy today <sup>and</sup> I hardly stepped out of the house.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Martha Farnsworth diary

Tues. 12 May 1896 A quiet day, in my own, little home. We are working and saving.

Wed. 13 Most of forenoon at Mila (Mrs. Chas.) Roby.

Thurs. 14 A most beautiful evening and Teddie and I are so thankful to be independent tho' "poor as church mice": we feel rich.

Fri. 15 Rained just awful, from 6 o'clock this morning, to 1 o'clock P.M. awful, awful.

Sat. 16 Rained most all day, but I was cozy at home.

Sun. 17 Fred walked as far as church with me this morning on his way to P.Q. we stopping at H. Bair's and he & Lizzie going with us. Mr. Andy Hullitt and mother and the C.W. Roby's and Frank Roby spent afternoon with us. This evening, Mila, Charlie and Frank Roby and Mabel Tulloch, went to church with us. Mr. S.A. Swendson, united with church this evening, coming from the Methodist.

Morn. 18 Mrs. Mila Roby and I went down town shopping this afternoon coming home by her father's - J. W. Bair's and stopping awhile; they were friends of mine, in the old home, when I was a little girl.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Martha Farnsworth diary

Tues. 19 May 1896 Rained awful hard at noon,  
almost cloud-burst, flooded everything and  
water broke thru' Cement of cellar and filled  
it about 3 feet. Became so dark, really  
needed a lamp. Glad Fred was home for dinner.

Wed. 20 Another hard rainstorm at 5 o'clock  
P.M. and could see cyclone west of town.

Thurs. 21 Spent afternoon at Mrs. Fells' where  
Fred called for me, when he was thru' work.  
Lizzie Bair and Mrs. Porter, was also at Mrs. Fells' and  
we just had the jolliest afternoon. We spent  
the evening at Charlie Roby's playing hearts.  
Rained awful hard awhile this evening.

Fri. 22 Quiet day in my "little cottage home."  
Rained some more for a change.

Sat. 23 Fred and I went over to Mrs. Fells' this evening,  
and got some Rose bushes, Lilac, Flowering Almond  
and Chrysanthemums, to set out on our place.  
Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Howlett - strangers - Called  
this afternoon; they are near neighbors.

Sun. 24 Fred walked to Church with me this  
morning on his way to work at P.Q. Went  
called at W.C. Baker's this evening on our way  
to Church, for Mata Magerl, who went with us.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Martha Farnsworth diary

Mon. 25 - May 1896 Called on Mrs. W. G. Baker this afternoon, but not home. Mrs. Fell and little "sweet, Marie", Harry Bair & family and Frank Roby called this evening, and later we women folks went across to Charlie Roby's, where we met a real live Mormon; Mila's cousin, on a missionary trip from Utah; a fine looking young man, but Oh! the Mormons! Adulterers. His name is Bair and seems very pleasant.

Tues. 26 We went to a Church "Lawn Social" at Beard and Johnson's in Pottaw, this evening. Had a grand, good time and 'twas a grand night. Full moon, clear and still. Mrs. Q. J. Buck called.

Wed. 27 Most all day in garden, pulling weeds and "set out" 50 Tomatoes. Quite cool this eve. We spent evening with the Hulitts on W-G<sup>m</sup>

Thurs. 28 A fine day and at home resting.

Fri. 29 I bought a half bu. of Cherries, from Uncle Marion Jan Qrsdol, this morning, to can. Mrs. McGauley, called this afternoon. We spent the evening at H. Bair's.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Martha Farnsworth diary

Sat. 30 May - 1896 "Decoration Day" and rained most all forenoon, as is usual on May 30. Fred had a half-holiday, but got little good of it, his mail-route being so large, that many days, it takes almost his, 8 hours to get over it once<sup>nd</sup> today, was a heavy day.

Sun. 31 Walked down to Church this morning, Fred going that far with me, on his way to P. Q. and we stopped a moment, on our way, at Mr. Harry Baird. Got to the Church, in time for Sabbath-school. Was introduced to Mrs. Boyle and children, who were received into the Church this morning: they have only recently came to the City and their first Sabbath at Church, tho' Bro. Boyle has been here some time. A Mr. Kelly and mother also came into the church. This afternoon, a young man, from Springfield, Colo., where my folks live, called to see us. He has taught school out there and preaches some; is a very peculiar fellow. Showed us lots of pictures. Fred & I went to church this evening and meeting Frank Roby on our way, took him with us and also went by Mrs. Hulett's and got big, old, Andy. Had a splendid sermon. Rained something terrible, and so we stopped awhile at Hulett's, coming home. Had such a merry time in the rain and got wet.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Martha Farnsworth diary

Mon. Jan 1<sup>st</sup> / 896 My Fred & I spent the evening, with the Chas. W. Roby, family.

Tues. 2<sup>nd</sup> Such a pretty afternoon <sup>nd</sup> I went over to Mrs. S. A. Swendson's to a "quilting." Mrs. W. W. Decker, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Shearer, Mrs. Parmer, Mrs. Clark <sup>nd</sup> Mrs. J. Gardner also there <sup>nd</sup> we had a very, merry, afternoon.

Wed. 3 Uncle Marian Van, came to town again today, with Cherries <sup>and</sup> I bought a half bushel. He staid to have dinner, with Fred <sup>nd</sup> me.

Thurs. 4 Mrs. Seiler - her husband a mail-carrier - and little Irene, spent afternoon with us.

Fri. 5 Mrs. Chas. Roby <sup>nd</sup> I, went to the Leavenworth Hill, "last day of school" exercises, this forenoon.

Sat. 6 Home, cooking and cleaning: Awfully hot day.

Sun. 7 Fred walked to church, with me, this A.M. on his way to work at P.C. and it rained on us. He and I went to church this evening. We like our Pastor very much and Mrs. Boyle is a pretty Southern woman; seems very pleasant: is one girl Gertrude and two boys Walter and Charles, tho' Chas.' name is Barry, Mrs. Boyle's son by former husband, and other 2 are Bro. Bo by a former wife.