

# Kansas Memory



## Martha Farnsworth diary

### Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

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

Mon. 8 June 1896 The most beautiful day of  
the year, so far, and I have been home  
all day.

Tues. 9 We went to the First Christian Church  
this evening, to a Reception, for our new  
Pastor, Rev. D. D. Boyle and his family. Mrs. Boyle  
is lovely. Gertrude is about 14<sup>th</sup> Chas, not  
much older and Walter about 7. Had a splendid  
time.

Wed. 10 Mata Magerl, called, this afternoon and  
Mrs. Durin and nephew, Frank, called, about 6 o'clock.

Thurs. 11 Cold today; almost cold enough to frost.

Fri. 12 Spent the afternoon, with Mrs. H. Bair,  
and this evening, Fred, Frank Roby and I spent the  
evening at W. C. Baker's, on West St.

Sat. 13 We spent the evening at C. W. Roby's,  
and of course old friends, always enjoy  
themselves together. Mrs. Roby and I have  
been acquainted, since we were little children  
and he is an old "sweet-heart" of mine.

Sun. 14 Went to church this morning and Fred  
with me, on his way to P. C. Frank Roby  
and Dave Store, spent afternoon with us.

Mon. 15 Oh my! Fred & I to church this evening  
and stopped at Baker's, on our way, for  
Mata Magerl, who went with us.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Mon. 15 June 1896 I "boasted" on Mila's (Roby) door-step, little while this morning, then got ready <sup>and</sup> went over to Mrs. H. W. Becker's a moment <sup>and</sup> then with Mrs. Parker <sup>and</sup> Lizzie Bair down town, to see the "Parade" of the Sells-Forepaugh Circus. Mr. Andy Hullitt <sup>and</sup> Rev. Boyle called, this afternoon. Fred & I spent evening with father. Kate & Grace are never home, when we go down to father's <sup>and</sup> we seldom see them.

Tues. 16 Mila Roby, went down to the Court House, with me, this afternoon, where I got some papers "made out" that I might get my first husband's "Over-time" money, from the Government. We saw Harry Horton there, getting his license, to wed Gertie Johnson, and of course I had to joke him. Mila & I, met Charlie <sup>and</sup> rode out home, with him on the grocery wagon. Awful hot day. Fred & I with Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Buck, spent the evening at Chas. W. Roby's.

Wed. 17 I went to the Court House <sup>and</sup> to a Notary Public's this afternoon to get my "papers" finished up. Hotter day than yesterday. We spent evening at Mr. Laen. Seiler's.

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Thurs. 18 June 1876 We spent the evening with Mr. & Mrs. John Milham, on Topeka Ave.

Fri. 19 Mrs. Chas. Roby, and Mrs. C. J. Buck and I went down and through, the new Santa Fe Hospital, on Cast 6<sup>th</sup> St., this afternoon: it is a magnificent building. Awfully hot day. The Chas. W. Roby family, spent evening with us and was such a pretty moonlight night.

Sat. 20 We went down, to Ingleside this evening to see Aunt Lucy S. but was out to tea and we found her at Mrs. Martindale's. Hot as hot.

Sun. 21 Fred went with me, to church door this morning, on his way to work, and Bert Bair, walked with us; Joe Augustus, also joining us on the way, and while passing some young ladies, J. A. "over-heard" them admiring my dress - a fine pink chambra & butter colored lace - and heard them say, "she looks just like a Bride." We were all much amused. Anna Holz, of Cottonwood Falls, and Mrs. W. G. Baker, called this morning, before we had Breakfast. The Harry Bair family called this afternoon and later we called at C. W. Roby's and Mrs. Hulitts.

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Mon. 22 June 1896 Chas. Roby and family spent the evening with us.

Tues. 23 Frank Roby and Mrs. C. W. Roby, visited with me all afternoon. This evening Fred & I called at C. Roby's and they with us, went to Harry Bair's, and from there with the Bair family, we all took car to town and met Dave Stone, who with rest of us, went over on East 8<sup>th</sup> St., and spent the evening with the Hornaday family; a bunch of old friends; for everyone, but Fred, had been friends and neighbors, at "Floral, Cowley Co., Kansas," and it seemed like old times.

Wed. 24 Uncle Marian and Aunt Kate VanCrespol took dinner with us, today.

Thurs. 25 I spent the afternoon with Mila Roby and this evening Fred & I went over to W. C. Baker's to visit Alma Holz, from Cottonwood Falls.

Fri. 26 Rained all day, and most of the time hard. Mrs. W. C. Baker, Mata Magerl and Alma Holz, spent the evening with us.

Sat. 27 Little Freda Gilbert, one year old today, and 4 years ago today, the Angels came and took, my "wee" precious, girlie. Oh, that she might come to me again.

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Sun. 28 June 1896 Went to church this A.M.  
and Fred with me to the door, as he went  
to work. The Robys', Mrs. Fell and Dizzie Bair  
spent afternoon with us and this evening,  
Mr. & Mrs. Q.J. Buck, Chas. Roby & family, Harry  
Bair & family, Frank Roby and the Fells'  
all went to church, with Fred & I.

Mon. 29 We went down to father's this evening  
He is such a dear old man. I wish  
I felt free to go see him often; but Kate  
and Grace are very cool, and seem to resent  
our coming and many times, go away, perhaps  
intending to before we came, but anyway  
they don't like me. Kate says, I "have too  
much dirty, nasty independence"

Tues. 30 Called on Mrs. R. T. Wilcox. Mrs. C.  
Munson, called this afternoon, all "trigged"  
out, in a lot of old fashioned jewelry, and  
looked so funny; reminded me of a "Gypsy".  
Fred & I called at Q.J. Buck's this evening, but  
(they were not home.)

Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> July We spent the evening at Mr.  
Will Bonkle's on Lincoln St.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Thurs. 2 July 1896 Called at Mila Roby's  
and Mrs. C. J. Buck's, this afternoon.

Fri. 3 Went with Mrs. Buck, this afternoon  
to call on Mrs. A. Brown, Yeath & Woodward.

Sat. 4 The "Glorious Fourth" and dearest  
Fannie has a half Holiday and is home with  
me; the whole day at home, but my Fannie  
brought me some candy, tho' I had no firecracker.  
Rained this afternoon.

Sun. 5 Fred walked to the Church with  
me as usual this morning. We spent the  
afternoon at father's, to visit Kate's daughter  
Minnie Brown, who has come up from  
Okla. very sick with Consumption of the  
Bowels. She will not live long and it seems  
too bad, to bring her away from her husband  
who can't come, being in charge of the  
Ponca Indian Schools. She has a fine  
healthy looking boy, nearly a year old.

Mon. 6 all afternoon with Mila Roby.

Tues. 7 The whole forenoon, hard at work  
in the Garden and tired and hot, so just  
rested myself this afternoon.

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Wed. 8 July 1876 Mrs. Osborne and daughter Bertha called on me, this afternoon. They seem very nice.

Thurs. 9 Mrs. Hattie Baty, called on me this afternoon.

Fri. 10 Mrs. S. A. Swendson, Frank Roby and Mrs. Chas. Roby, visited with me, this afternoon.

Sat. 11 Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Hawlett called this evening.

Sun. 12 Fred walked, far as church, with me this morning, as he went to P.C.B. I came home on a car. We went to church alone this evening. We usually leave a crowd.

Mon. 13 We met a large crowd at the Church this evening (First Christian) and all went to Mrs. Herron's, where had a Farewell Party for Bert Bair, who is to leave the City. We all had just a splendid evening, except we had to remember it was Farewell to a friend.

Tues. 14 We went over on Arch St. to Mr. J. M. Bair's this evening, where Bert B. gave a "Farewell" evening to his friends. He served ice-cream and cake and we all had another happy evening together before his going away from among us.

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Wed. 15 July 1896 I called on Mrs. McCauley this afternoon, then went to Mrs. Decker's and "quilted" all rest of afternoon, with some other friends, on one of our Church "Aid Society's quilts." Only 10° today. Mida and Chas. Roby, spent evening with us.

Thurs. 16 Mrs. James Burgess, Mrs. J. Van Decten and little Burgess and Mary, Mrs. Gattrel, Mrs. Q. J. Buck, Mrs. J. Tullock and Frank Roby, called on me this afternoon. Bert Bair came in this morning to tell me good-bye as he goes to do, J. M. C. A. work in Decatur, Ill. He sold me a lovely oil-painting for ten dollars.

Fri. 17 Fred at home this forenoon. Rained real cool.

Sat. 18 Rained awful hard most of the day. I keep up, and say nothing and I work hard, but the folks are afraid I will run into consumption, because I am not at all well and am growing thinner every day.

Sun. 19 Awful muddy, so staid home all day, but we went to church this evening.

Mon. 20 Spent the afternoon at Mrs. W. Decker's, quilting. Mrs. Swenson and Mrs. Patch also there.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Tues. 21 July 1896 Mrs. Wilcox and I called on Mrs. C. Munson, this afternoon.

Wed. 22 Awfully hot today and the summer is a very trying "one, for we must do without so much, in trying to buy and fix up our home, but how sweet is independence.

Thurs. 23 Uncle Marian Van, came out to see me; Frank Roby and Mrs. A. Brown here this afternoon.

Fri. 24 Called at Mrs. Osborne's but she not being home, I spent afternoon with Mrs. L. Seiler, over on Grand Ave.

Sat. 25 My good Teddie and me, spent the evening at Ingleside, with Aunt Lucy S.

Sun. 26 Fred walked far as Church door with me, this morning. Chas. Roby & family spent afternoon with us. We walked to Church this evening.

Mon. 27 Very hot weather and I put in a quiet day at home. I fret and worry much about way Coit has treated us and way Kate + Grace act, when we go down to Father's, but my Teddie, never guesses I do, for I always show him a smiling face.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Tues. 28 July 1896 Fred got his "over-time" money from the Government today, \$1.89. - so I went to town with him and took the money to pay some bills, and then went to Mr. D. O'Donnell's, where I finished paying Mr. D. O. for the carpenter work he did for us. I then went over and bought an oak lounge and a little oak rocker, of Mrs. Chas. Roby, as they leave soon, for Calif. and are selling their household goods. We spent the evening at Jim Shaw's and coming home missed our car, so stopped at Methodist Ice cream Social, in Grove, at foot of East 6<sup>th</sup> st Viaduct, got some ice cream while waiting for next car.

Wed. 29 Just a workin' in my own little home, for a man who is very good to me.

Thurs. 30 Cousin Will Van Bredel was married today in Silver Lake, to Minnie Tandermark. Mighty hot weather, for getting married.

Fri. 31 We drove out to Uncle Marian Van's this evening to stay over night and attend the Reception and Wedding supper of cousin Will.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Sat. Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> / 1896 Stayed all day at uncle Marian's except to go over to uncle George Van Gredel's a little while this afternoon. Was a big crowd at Reception last night and I am nearly sick, from so much feasting. We drove home this evening, getting here about 8:20 P.M. We always have such good times out at Uncle's.

Sun. 2 Did not feel well enough to go to Church today. We spent evening at C. Roby's.

Mon. 3. Down town, this afternoon, settling up my "Administratrix" affairs. Awfully hot

Tues. 4 Went with Mrs. Howlett, this afternoon, to the Women's Bible Class<sup>nd</sup> prayer-meeting in Leavenworth Hill Chapel, after which I called on Mrs. S. A. Swendson.

Wed. 5 Went down town, with Fred at noon, got my money, from Government, (my first husband's "overtime" claim) some \$359. <sup>00</sup> and sent one hundred dollars to Pa as a present. Boiling hot day.

Thurs. 6 Another very hot day. Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. John Gardner, called on me this afternoon.

Fri. 7 Awful hot winds. 107° Carpenters have been here all week, building us two new Porches. Chas. & Mira Roby<sup>nd</sup> little Ethel spent the evening with us.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Sat. 8 Aug. 1896 We went down to Mrs. M. L. Durin's awhile, this evening, then called at Father's but he had gone to bed, so we went to town and got us some ice cream, then returned home.

Sun. 9 Such a dreadfully hot day and I am so weak, from the heat, that I did not go to church.

Mon. 10 Awfully hot weather, and I can hardly move hand or foot, am so weak from heat.

Tues. 11 Carpenters, still working about the porches. Rained hard nearly all last night, but still it is hot.

Wed. 12 Quite cool & how pleasant, the change. Mrs. Hulitt, spent the whole forenoon, with me and Mrs. Baker + daughter, Mata Magerl, were here all afternoon, so I have done nothing today, but talk.

Thurs. 13 Canned tomatoes, this forenoon. Aunt Sallie Ogden, spent afternoon with me, and Fred + I spent the evening at J. Fullocks.

Fri. 14 Mrs. Buck and Mrs. Newberry, called this afternoon. Fred + I went over to Mrs. Meredith's at "Campbell Court" this evening to an ice cream social. Hot! hot! hot!

Sat. 15 Canned tomatoes this morning. We spent the evening at Father's, then came home thru town, stopping for ice cream at Bateman's and Clark's.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Sun. 16 Aug 1896 Went to Church this morning

Fred walking with me, on his way to P. C.

Seven, invited with the Church at close of meeting.

Mon. 17 Rained hard during the night, and most of today. Tearing the paper off the dining room today, preparatory, to repapering. Found five and six layers of old paper on the wall.

Tues. 18 Still taking paper off the walls and it is awfully hard work. Rained this forenoon.

Wed. 19 Rained some more, today and is very cool. Had Mr. Waggoner, here today, taking paper off of the ceiling, as I am almost worn out.

Thurs. 20 Still scraping paper off the walls. Harry Bair and Ray were here this evening. Harry is going to paper our rooms for us.

Fri. 21 Scraping paper from walls all forenoon. Went to Holman's, in North Topeka, after dinner to select paper, for our house. Got a lovely Terra Cotta Ingram, with 18 inch border, for the Parlor, a beautiful pink flowered, gilt, for the dining-room and lavender flowers for the bed-room and we will have a dear "little nest" when once we get settled.

Rain and wind storm, came up about 4 o'clock P.M. Oh! I am so tired.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

S

Sat. 22 Aug 1896 Taking off paper from  
the walls all day and had Mr. Waggoner  
helping me; it is awfully hard work.

Sun. 23 Mother Shaw-Allan and Mrs. Jim Shaw  
and Mr. & Mrs. John Runyan & baby Winfield  
spent the afternoon with us. We  
went over on 3<sup>rd</sup> & Lake St., to the Third  
Christian Church, this evening to hear  
Rev. J. A. D. Romig. They have a pretty new  
Church.

Mon. 24 Harry Bair here, painting inside  
woodwork today. Mila & Othel spent  
the afternoon with me.

Tues. 25 Harry Bair was here at work  
awhile and the other men were here painting  
outside of house, until noon.

Wed. 26 Harry Bair finished painting inside  
today. The outside painters came at 10 o'clock  
and painted all rest of the day.

Thurs. 27 Harry Bair here, papering our  
rooms today and the other painters  
here painting on outside, this afternoon.

Fri. 28 Harry B. papering and other men  
painting and "busy times" at our house.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Sat. 29 Aug. 1896 Our papering is all done and the rooms look so pretty. The Painters were working awhile this afternoon.

Sun. 30 Went to Church this morning and after preaching, home with the Burgers - Hodgins - Jan Vester, family to dinner, Fred coming from P.O. with Sad Hodgins. We called at father's this afternoon and found Minnie Brown, worse; she can't live long. Went back to Col. Burgers' and went from there, to Church with Mr. & Mrs. Hodgins.

Mon. 31 The Painters got thru' this evening and I am so glad, because they were rough, quarrelsome fellows and I can clean up the place now. Oh! it does look so pretty, our little white Cottage, and it is pretty inside, but we can't furnish it yet for nearly two months; however we begin to feel like we were living, only I am not strong this summer.

I have had lots of hard work & care, and worry over many things.

Tues. 1 Sept. We went to Harry Bair's to bid "good bye" to our Roby friends (Celia, Mira and Etta) as they go to Ventura, Calif. to make their home. I spent afternoon quilting at Mrs. L. Seiler's. Fred went to mail carriers meeting this evening.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Wed. 2 Sept. 1896 Called at Mrs. Casebeer's this afternoon, but there was no one home.

Thurs. 3 Just resting today.

Fri. 4 Rained some and is cool. I went to H. Bair's on an errand this morning.

Father Farnsworth came out <sup>and</sup> took supper with us this evening <sup>and thinks</sup> we have a pretty little home; the first time he has seen it; and it is dear as can be, bright and new <sup>and</sup> clean.

Sat. 5 Eva Herman, spent the day with me and we had a very happy time.

Sun. 6 We went to Church this evening <sup>and</sup> Rev. Ireland preached. A young couple from Council Grove, Ks. were married after church.

Mon. 7 It being Labor day, Fred had a half holiday <sup>and</sup> was home all afternoon. And we were glad to be home together.

Tues. 8 We spent the evening at Ingleside with aunt Lucy Stoddard. She is so dear.

Wed. 9 Resting today. Rained a little

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Thurs. 10 Sept. 1896 1017 Brooks Ave.

Rained most all day and I have just been resting, for I am very weary; the summer has been hard.

Fri. 11 Went to Mrs. O. J. Buck's and got her to go with me, to "Ladies Aid" at Leavenworth Chapel, where we worked all afternoon and made 8 bed comforts.

Sat. 12 Made Quince preserves, and canned tomatoes, this forenoon. Mrs. Patch called to see me this afternoon.

Sun. 13 Didn't go to Church this morning. Harry Bair and family, spent afternoon with us.

Mon. 14 Rained all day. I love rainy days.

Tues. 15 On his way to work, this morning, Fred's horse, slipped, falling in the mud and breaking the harness, badly, so he returned home, to mend it and did not get to work until 11 o'clock A. M.

Jim Shaw, brought us our winter potatoes, this afternoon.

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Martha Farnsworth diary

Wed. 16 Sept. 1896 Mrs Beard & Mrs. J.

Van Zechten, called this morning. I called on Mrs. Arthur Brown, this afternoon but she was not home, then I called on Mrs. Q. J. Buck. Fred & I spent evening at H. Bair's after calling on Mr. Donnell's. Such a beautiful, moonlight evening.

Thurs. 17 Rode with Fred, to 5<sup>th</sup> & Topeka Ave., as he went to work after dinner, on my way to spend afternoon, with Mrs. M. Durein. Called few minutes at father's to pay him, Fred's "Loan Association" portion on the "Home place," then went up to P.Q. and rode out home, with Fred. Minnie Akin-Brown, grows much weaker and looks as if death were but a few hours off, yet Kate declares she is better and writes Minnie's husband, to that effect. They have had no Doctor for her since she came, but depend altogether on "Christian Science."

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Fri. 18 Sept. 1896 Rained again today <sup>and</sup>

I love to sit <sup>and</sup> read, some good book,  
to the accompaniment of the "rain-  
drops patter;" it is sweetest of dreamland.

Sat. 19 The 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my coming to  
Topeka <sup>and</sup> it is a very cold day.

Sun. 20 Went to Church this morning  
and after dinner, Fred & I went down  
to father's, to Minnie Brown's funeral  
she having died at "Mid-night" Oct 12:10  
Rev. Abram Wyman, preached the funeral <sup>and</sup>  
her husband, took her body, to "Fredonia"  
Ks. for burial, or will early in morning.  
We went from father's over to J. J. Bauer's  
<sup>and</sup> went thru their new house, then  
spent the evening with Mr. & Mrs. Milham.

Mon. 21 Went down to father's this  
afternoon <sup>and</sup> Fred came there from  
work <sup>and</sup> we stayed all night so  
father might not be alone; Kate  
and Grace gone to Fredonia.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Tues. 22 Sept. 1896 All day and night at father's except that I helped Mrs. Duren, prepare Beans for canning, this forenoon. Fred & I walked down to the Rock Island Depot and Bridge this evening.

Wed. 23 Still at father's, for today. My aunt Sallie Ogden, came after dinner and she and I, went over to Shorey on the R. I. train and spent the afternoon at uncle Charlie Howard's. Kate & Grace got home from Minnie Brown's funeral, at Fredonia, about 11 o'clock this evening and told Fred & I, we would have to go home for she had no place for us. She and Grace each have a separate room but they won't sleep together for one night, to accommodate anyone; and I have "put myself out" to accommodate them. Why, had it been me, I would have slept on the floor, before my brother, after a hard day's work, should go home so late at night. And this big house.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Sept. 24 - 1896 Thurs. Went down town, at noon, with Fred, going via father's to get my rings which I forgot last night.

Fri. 25 Canning, Quinces, Tomatoes, and baking bread. Mrs. Buck & Mrs. J. Herriott

Sat. 26 We are going to Colorado, very soon to visit my folks. They are getting up a big hunting Party, for us and we expect to have a big time. And so each day, I am getting things together, for the trip. Today, I am making a navy blue velvet, "Tam o'shanter" for my sister

Sun. 27 Cold & cloudy; got up too late to go to church.

Mon. 28 "Fall Festival Week" and it starts out auspiciously; the day has been beautiful. Had quite a frost last night.

Tues. 29 Up before 5 o'clock this morning and Fred took me to the Keith Block where our Christian Church is to serve meals this week. We fed over 200 today. Fred took me to the P.O. this eve to view Bicycle Parade.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Wed. 30 Sept. 1896 Home until noon,  
when went to P.Q. & met Fred & together  
we viewed the "Floral Parade" at 2 o'clock.  
It was simply grand, so beautiful that  
one almost shed tears of joy at the  
pretty sight. All artificial flowers  
but they keep their shape so nicely  
that, it beat the boasted flower parades  
of Calif. for there, their natural flowers  
wilt.

Thurs. Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> Helping cook & wait on  
tables, all day, down at the Keith Block.  
Our church fed about a thousand today.  
Old Soldiers had a Parade this morning.  
Fred came to the Hall, for supper, then  
rented a couple of "chairs", from where  
we watched the "Dragon Parade"  
Flambeaux etc. Grand, glorious. Parade  
was at nine o'clock. Oh! I am so tired.

Fri. 2 A lovely day and Fred & I went to Fair  
Grounds this afternoon but so crowded  
did not stay. Down to see Carnival Parade  
this eve at P.Q. met aunt Sallie. Took her home  
after parade.

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Martha Farnsworth diary

Sat. 3 Oct. 1896 I had such a frightful

dream last night; in it, I stood with my sister, beside a coffin and an open grave in Floral, our old home; the coffin was in a pine box and I could not see who was in it and while I had the impression her husband was in it, all day long I have been very sad, for I have wondered if it might not mean, that death was near to me, for I have not been really well all summer and many have thought I was going into Consumption. I worked so hard all day, packing our trunk and cooking to start on our happy vacation trip, to Colo. Monday next and at 4:35 P.M. a "Messenger Boy" galloped past the house and instinctively, as if some one said to me, "he has a message for you" I ran out and called him back and the message was for me, answering my dream. A telegram, telling me my sister's husband was dead. Fred came and we took the 11:45 P.M. Santa Fe train for Winfield. Oh, how terrible the shock of it, no one can know

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Sun. 4 Oct. 1896 Oh! such a sad journey.

After leaving Newton Ks. this morning the Conductor came into the car and I told Fred he was my uncle: some way I recognized him, this had never seen him in my life and never but once saw a picture of him and that many years ago. Fred asked him his name and found indeed he was my uncle Harry Wilcox and when we told him who and where we were going and why he said he had a funeral party in the coach ahead and it proved to be my sister and little family and stepmother; we had ridden many miles with them, we now having passed Wichita and their car joined our train at Newton: it was a heart-breaking meeting. We arrived in Winfield 8:58 and were transferred to the Frisco to go out to Floral; Met Sam Gilbert and family here and having 3 hours to wait, Fred & I walked out to aunt Till Weber's. Aunt Till and cousin Emma Adams went with us to Floral at 11:45 P.M. arriving at 12:10 and going direct to Baptist Church where funeral was preached: large crowd. From Cemetery we all went to uncle Joe Anderson's and staid all night.

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

Prairie Grove School District No. 108  
Ches. 6 Oct. 1896

Uncle Joe and Aunt Mat Anderson took us, in a big wagon, all over to Uncle Zeke Rogers, this morning, to spend the day and we stay all night tonight. It is so sad I can hardly live. We drove by the old farm, this morning, where I grew up: strangers are there now. We also drove by Prairie Grove school house where as a little girl, I passed many happy days in school, but the old school house, full of sweet memories grew too small and is sitting away to one side and used as a dwelling, while a new school-house, larger and finer and with a Bell in its Cupola, and the Prairies, where I use to herd cattle and be my father's "cow boy" for 7 or 8 years are now all under cultivation. I saw no antlered Deer, bounding across the Prairies; no Indians passing, to say "How! How! to the white man's Papoose sitting on her pony, watching her father's Herd? No, everything is changed now.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Martha Farnsworth diary

Wed. 7 Oct. 1896 Uncle Zeke Rogers, hitched up this morning and took us, down to "Little Dutch", to Uncle Hen Rogers where we spent the day and this evening, Uncle Hen, took us back over to Uncle Joe's this evening and here we will stay all night. At Uncle Zeke's cousin Gerty is getting ready to be married next Sunday. At Uncle Hen's, where I used so much to come and play, Glenworth, is married and has family married Tina Savage (who is now dead) Lula married Geo. Burt, Jessie married Oliver Gurman and Maude married Schrophe. Only Floy is home and he is much younger and I never saw him before. At Uncle Joe's Vada, Walter and Carrie are still at home. There are so many changes, it would be sad, had death not made it so. The same old hills and valleys are here, but I used to know every Spring and where we would find fish, this not much larger than minnows; and the ponds that had the most snakes and the ones with the most turtles and where all the wolf dens were and now most of the ponds are dry, where I used to go "swimming" every day.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Martha Farnsworth diary

Thurs. 8 Oct. 1896 Yesterday in all our drive I did not see a single Hay-stack<sup>nd</sup> prairies used to be dotted with them, and I had many a hard run to keep the cattle away from them, so not to tear the hay out with their horns. And many and many a time I have "slimmed" up these stacks<sup>nd</sup> turn a "Summersault" off of them<sup>nd</sup> slide down until do almost as much damage as the cattle. And with many girl friends, who were "Cowboys" like myself, I have run many a horse race on these dear old prairies<sup>nd</sup> many a "Jack Rabbit" has panted for breath before he got away, for some of my ponies were fleet footed. I could wish for those days again only one would again have to "grow up" and go thro' much sorrow. Uncle Joe and Aunt Mat, took us to Mrs. Edwards' in Floral today. Fred & I stay over night, with Mr. & Mrs. Edwards and Ma stays with Mrs. Robbins while May & children go to Billy Hart's. Mrs. Edward Fred & I called on Lydia Hobbin Bates and Mrs. Mrs. Roby this evening.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Martha Farnsworth diary

Fri. 9 Oct. 1896

Floral, Cowley Co., Kansas,

We took the 8:30 train to Winfield this morning and went to see Leetie Davis-Sanford then to cousin Henry Anderson's for dinner. We joined sister May and children on 3:50 P.M. Frisco train from Floral and all went to Arkansas City, where Mrs. S. Gilbert met us and we staid over night with them. My sister is 28 years old today.

Sat. 10

Fred & I went to Gora Finch Jenkins' this morning, to spend the day and we stay all night tonight. We were school-mates, when girls in Winfield. She now has 3 children, the baby named for Fred. We took her by surprise and how we have visited today. Lived over the old schooldays.

Sun. 11

We spent the day with the Jenkins. I think Charlie is cross to Gora. Any way, he is not such a sweetheart as my Fred is to me. Gora has bright children. We come back to the Gilberts tonight to stay all night and be as much as possible with sister.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Martha Farnsworth diary

Mon. 12 Oct. 1896 We with May & children took 8:30 morning train up to Winfield and went to cousin Henry Anderson's where we spent the day <sup>and</sup> stay tonight. This afternoon we took the children up town <sup>and</sup> had their pictures taken and little Freda - named for Fred - 14 months old could not be kept still a moment: she is a wonderfully bright child. May <sup>and</sup> I also had our pictures taken together. My sister does not look as if she could live a great while: poor girl.

Tues. 13 We, with May <sup>and</sup> children went to Aunt Till Weber's and spent the day <sup>and</sup> stay all night tonight. She is such a dear blessed Aunty. A perfect saint: my mother's sister and a mother to me. Cousin Minnie Weber-Farrell is visiting at home now <sup>and</sup> she + I went to cousin Emma Weber-Adams, awhile <sup>and</sup> with she and cousins Ella, Elma + Jessie Weber <sup>and</sup> my sister, we all went up town <sup>and</sup> had our pictures taken together. 7 girl cousins. It is so nice to be at aunt Till's. Just like home.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Martha Farnsworth diary

Winfield Ks.

Wed. 14 Oct 1896 We, with sister and the children, went to cousin John Weber's today for dinner. They have two handsome boys, Mervin and Allan. Minnie, Ella and Zelma Weber came and they with Fred & I called at cousin Harry (Kansas) and Elmer Weber's this afternoon: they have a lovely boy, Frank. Fred & I came to Mr. Davis' this evening to stay all night with Bettie Davis-Sanford. She is an old school-mate and divorced. She has an awfully sweet boy, Phillip.

Thurs. 15 We spent the day, with Bettie and stay all night, with Aunt tonight. This afternoon, Bettie took Fred & I & cousin Minnie, for a drive, and also visited the old "Gunnel Mills," where I often came with my father, when a little girl and he came to bring his "grist" to mill. We also went thro' Baden's Mill and a walk down to this mill used to be a favorite with "lovers" and many times, I have walked down here with my sweet heart, W.A. Finch.