

Anna Margaret (Watson) Randolph diary

These excerpts from Anna (Watson) Randolph's diary begin after her family had settled in Emporia in 1858. Living in Emporia provided many opportunities for her and her family to become involved in the community, including church services and "singing school." She includes juicy details about her neighbors, including Mr. Plumb who was a fan of the drink. Her entries also point to her mental state and her personal reflections on self improvement. In short, these entries provide a previously unseen glimpse into the Emporia community during the 1850s and into the lives of the Watson family.

Creator: Randolph, Anna Margaret Watson, 1838-1917

Date: December 12, 1858 - December 19, 1858

Callnumber: Anna M.W. Randolph Coll. #238 Box 1 Folder 20

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 2270

Item Identifier: 2270

www.kansasmemory.org/item/2270



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Jane has been sick all day
had the ague, ~~and~~ ~~the~~
I spent the evening a Mr. Welker
had a very pleasant time
he got a good long letter
from Thome, and several
others,

12 ~~Beep to Church~~ I was at
church this morning Mr. Morse
preached a tolerably good sermon
Jane is some better, but had a
chill, was at singing school, I
feel real bad this evening
I am not near as good as
I used to be, I am so selfish
contrary they say I am and I
suppose I am I used to feel as
if I could make any sacrifice
now matter how great for the
loved ones at home, but I don't
feel at all now my feeling seems
to stand still and I must not
feel so, I will be better

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13th Painter is here, ~~in the~~ ^{there} he is clerking for Proctor there is quite an excitement about getting Wherman out of the store they are petitioning Proctor to have him removed. I think that they had better let Proctor bend to his own business.

14th was at lodge this evening. I felt like I used to when I was at home among the girls and boys, so full of life and fun. Perhaps I acted very silly and foolish. I expect I did, but I can't help it now. I wish that I had some faithful friend that expected me & one that knew that I was always what I appeared to be when I laughed I felt happy when I laughed. Perhaps and when I felt so, but I don't believe there is any one that thinks right of me.

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they think I am acting up half
the time don't mean what I
say
1/5 May gave back had to teach
for her. Columbus has been on
a high all the week indeed I
don't know that he has not
been short half drunk for
several weeks, its such a shame
why will any one so debase
themselves, oh how I dread the
holidays I so fear for some
of our Good Templars, I fear
more for them than I ever did
before because I have less faith
in them, I wish I could have
more. I shall do all in my
power to hold them up, I
more wished for power, in-
fluence so I do now perhaps
my fears are groundless, I hope
they are. Wholly we were at
Singing School this evening

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some one else fire
 fire, we all jumped and
 run as we did before
 but I don't think we were
 frightened ~~as~~ bad, at least
~~I was not~~, I was the printing
 office caught from the fire
 again but it was soon put
 out, come back to school, Mr. Nurse
 15th Mary gave me a letter from her and
 to go to school, Mr and Mrs. ~~the~~
 Haddley spent the evening
 with us. The mason's Hall
 is going up fast, the outside
 of the upper story is finished
 I wonder how and all ~~the~~
 This has been a beautiful day
 the sun set so gloriously
 to night, and the moon
 and stars are shining. We
 brought out a cloud to be
 taken

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18th Mary Anne still sick, a
Bright beautiful day, the
folks are all talking about
going to church. I hope
this time I have a good time.
I feel more like myself
today than I have for a
long time. I don't feel so
hard (these) are times when
I feel as if I could crush
every thing before me I am
very much ashamed of such
feelings, and don't know
why I should feel so,
but Anna is her self to
night and I hope she will
continue to be so.

18th Been working all day, there
has been so many people in
town today that an immense
amount of business is done here
as at no other time.

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spent the evening at Mrs. G.
 there was quite a company
 there some talked ~~and~~
~~and~~ some and acted very foolish
 as is generally the case ~~and~~
~~an competition for the New York~~
~~Ball which I attended.~~
 Mr Rankin is here. Papa is helping
 him with some of his law
 business, I wish he would go
 home for I want to go to his
 to packing we have no
 other room, he I have the set
 on shelves I hardly hold any
 or undrills and go to bed before
 him I shall try and be as
 patient as possible
 19th we were at Methodist Church this
 morning. Margaret went home
 this afternoon, Mr Tolson came
 up this evening and we had a
 little singing & chat
 Mr Phares was here for breakfast
 had dinner