

Martha Farnsworth diary

Section 7, Pages 181 - 210

Martha Farnsworth, a Topeka, Kansas resident, kept a personal diary from 1882 through 1922 with only a few gaps. This particular volume covers the years 1910 through 1912. Martha's diary entries not only reveal her values and the activities in her life, but also provide a picture of Topeka at that time. Some of the notable aspects of Martha's life include her participation in social reform movements, membership in social clubs and activities, and her deep religious convictions.

Creator: Farnsworth, Martha, 1867-1924

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Martha Farnsworth diary

October 1911

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Wed. 25 Spent the whole day at Sewing School at Mrs. Wolfe's 1232 Filmore St. making me a coat - real tailored affair.

Thurs. 26 Sewing again today at Sewing School and of course rained and I got pretty much wet coming home, tho' I took car. Mr. and Mrs. Jones, stopped for me this morning and took me to 10th and Filmore, on my way to Mrs. Wolfe's. Fred and I walked up to Joneses this evening and with Mrs. J. went to the "Majestic" to see the valets in "The Lion and the Mouse". Mr. J. met us at theatre. We enjoyed the play very much, tho' it rained on us going and coming.

Fri. 27 Papers say a few flakes of snow fell last night, but we didn't see any. Cold today and sort of rainy. Fred had his "Mail Carrier Club" here tonight and they brought their wives. We served hot ginger-bread, cider, Apples and Pop-corn and had a fine time. Mr. & Mrs. E. Priddy, Mr. & Mrs. J. Kellar and 2 children, Mr. & Mrs. Ballard and Baby, Mr. & Mrs. Hixson, Mr. & Mrs. R. Neale, Mr. Reutter and Mr. Swickard were all that came. Pretty nasty sort of a night for any one to come but we had a jolly time. I went to C. W. B. M. this afternoon at Mrs. Paerman's on Garfield.



Memo of Alfred Benson

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Oct. 1911. Topeka Kansas
2200 W-10-St.

Sat. 28 A cold day and one full of work. I worked hard all day - only I got tired, at 20 minutes of 6 o'clock, and had but a few minutes rest before Fred came home to supper. One of my hard jobs was to black the Heater and set it up. Fred could not be here to help.

Sun. 29 Warren R. walked to Sun. School with Fred and I, this morning. Raining after church so we came home, on a car. I'm tired today. I had 27 Boys present in Class this morning.

Mon. 30 Another rainy day - Fred took his lunch, with him this morning, so was not home at noon. I had to dry my washing in the house. After dinner I walked over to Chas. M. Sheldon's Church, to a Lecture on "New Testament Period," by Dean Frank T. Lee of Washburn College.

Tues. 31 A most busy day, making "Bird ink" invitations again - hope to give my Class a straw-ride.

November

Wed. 1 Most awfully cold - a real winter day. Freezing all day and a few stragling flakes of snow fell. I walked down to the Church for Supper this evening, the S.S. Teachers being guests of David Owen. Stayed for Prayer meeting.



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Thurs. 2 Another cold day, this not as bad as yesterday. I walked down to Church this afternoon to C. W. B. M. meeting and was on the Program my subject "The Stewardship of life".

Fri. 3 Raining, disagreeable, and cold - just working hard on my "Quinduck" Postals

Sat. 4 A fine day and especially the afternoon. Wish I could see the "K. U. - Washburn, Football Game this afternoon. I worked all day hard on my Postals and finished about 7 o'clock. Fred spent evening at Mr. Swickard's with a bunch of other Letter Carriers.

Sun. 5 Warren R., Fred^{and} I walked to Sunday School this morning; after Church, finding a cold rain falling, we took a car home. Commenced to read aloud, this evening, Mrs. Rijsharts' experience as a Missionary in Tibet and find it most interesting.

Mon. 6 An ideal day. Fred took his lunch with him again this morning. I got my washing on line early, scrubbed and cleaned, killed a chicken and put in oven to roast, ate a hurried lunch, went to town to shop, called at Mrs. Sherman's 109-E-10 then went to Cent. Cong. Church to another Lecture by Dr. Bell.



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November 1911

- Tues. 7 A beautiful day. Making "Dip & Ink" Post cards again for my Sunday School Class. Fred & I went to see the Lyman Home, "moving pictures" at the Grand, this evening and they were splendid - the best, I've ever seen. One comic, The pet Panther or Leopard, I laughed over until I cried; the two pictures are a wonderful treat and of great educational value.
- Wed. 8 Awfully busy with my Post Cards - Jessie came in for a couple of hours this morning. Mrs. Reinhart's Book, on Missionary work in Tibet is terrible. I will never believe God approves of such sacrifices: they used poor judgment and suffered in consequence.
- Thurs. 9 A beautiful day - almost or quite a Summer day. Mrs. Jones came after dinner, and we walked over to Mrs. Hull's 1001 Buchanan to a meeting of Good Government Club.
- Fri. 10 More than busy today with my Post Cards & it is so awfully warm. Almost hot as Summer.
- Sat. 11 Almost too warm for comfort this morning & by ten o'clock it was freezing and blowing a gale; at noon it commenced to snow in fine sleet, flakes; continued to



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Warren Remington, C.M. Brill, Fred Brackett, Purl Barnard, Ernest Greer
 Horace Hlegroff and Robert Simpson came out this afternoon.
 grow colder and more windy - it was fierce and
 I was to have taken my Class of Boys for a "Straw-
 ride"; well seven boys came out any how and we
 had a happy time at home; popped corn, played
 Checkers, etc and I set before them a basket
 of Apples which soon disappeared.

Sun. 12 So awfully cold and Fred in it yesterday
 all day, so thought he better stay home
 today and rest. Warren R. (one of my class)
 walked to Sunday School with me, but I did
 not care to face such a strong cold wind
 home, so came on a car, after church.

14° above zero this
 morning by our thermometer.

We enjoy, yet it is heart breaking to
 read Mrs. Ringheart's Missionary experience
 in Tibet. But I am very sure God does
 not want any such sacrifice as they so
 foolishly made, but of course were young
 and did not realize all they were doing.

Mon. 13 A busy day preparing to entertain my Class tomorrow
 night - went to town shopping this morning.
 Awfully cold and the wind was
 the worst yet. One could hardly
 stand on their feet, but it is warming
 up and would not be bad except
 for the wind. Oh! how the leaves and
 dirt whirled and whirled - no leaves left on the trees.



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November 1911

Tues. 14

A most beautiful day and a most busy one for me. Edward Price, one of my Sunday School boys is 15 years old today, and I had the Glass out this evening to celebrate the event and we had the jolliest, best time. I don't know when we ever had so much fun. I had a sewing contest, and each boy pieced a "quilt block" of red and white, called "Windmill" or "Flying Star". A very tiny stick of candy, as Booby prize went to Fred Brackett. A big stick, first prize, went to Harry Davis who did excellent work, with Lyman King a mighty close second and Merle Alton almost a tie with him. And it was really wonderful how well most of them did. After this contest about half went home and other half stayed to nearly ten o'clock playing "Hide the Tumble, or" "In plain sight. Jiev-jitsu" and doing Indian Wrestling which was most amusing and I laughed until quite weary from it. The boys who came were Harry Davis, Ernest Sheldon, G.M. Brill, Carl Swanson, Claude Swenson, Carl Michaelson, Merle Alton, Warren Remington, Fred Brackett, Purl Barnard, Edward Price, Henry Mason, Lyman King, Ralph Davidson, Jay Banta, Robert Simpson, Robert Roth, Ernest Greer, Ronald McLeod, William Jackson, Roy Ribelin and Gerald Kenyon.



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Wed. 15 This colder than yesterday, it has been a lovely day. Again working on "Pen and ink" Postals for must have the Glass next Monday again.

Thurs. 16 Working hard all day, on my Postal cards.

Fri. 17 Another most awfully busy day, but it is a happy, work; wish the days were twice as long.

Sat. 18 Cold and gloomy and rained a wee bit. Mrs. Strickler here this morning and Mrs. J. Runyon, this evening, but I got my "Postals" all finished and really feel relief, that it is the last Birthday for some time.

Sun. 19 Warren Remington walked to Sunday School with Fred and me this morning. Our Sunday School enters into a contest with Atchison, Mo. commencing this morning and we had a fine crowd this morning. Rev. Geschger, Chancellor of Götter University, Lincoln Neb. preached for us this morning, or rather talked of the needs of Church Schools and Institutions. I had to work all afternoon, to get ready for my Glass Party tomorrow night. Baked 5 Mince Pies, 72 Patty shells and dressed two chickens.



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Mon. 20 A grand day ^{and} Fred home all day, to help me ^{and} to have a day of his vacation. I worked hard every moment and at 5 o'clock my "Boys" began to arrive - it is Horace & Groffs, 14 Birthday, Robert Roth, Robert Simpson, Roy Ribelin, Horace & Groff, Lynnman King, Edward Price, Ralph Davidson, Ronald McGord, Claude Swendsen, Warren Remington, Gerald Kenyon, Arthur Dennis, William Jackson, Merle Allton, Purl Baranard, Fred Brackett, Ernest Sheldon, Ernest Greer, Harry Davis, Carl Michaelson, Carl Swanson ^{and} Q.M. Brill. Then ^{Mr.} David Owen, our S.S. Supt. Mr. G. V. King, one of the teachers, and Mr. F. Oggle, one of the Baraca's were here ^{and} we had a most splendid time and a most noisy one. I gave them a list of "Surnames" to guess ^{and} we had Jiu Jitsu ^{and} Indian Wrestling, contests and all sang ourselves hoarse. I served sandwiches ^{and} apple salad, creamed chicken and scalloped Oysters in patty shells, mince pie, ice-cream and Plum pudding cake, hot. The Boys popped corn over the grate fire too and we had just a grand evening and tho' the house looks like a hog pen it was a world of fun.



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Tues. 21 Swept and cleaned and dusted and washed dirty dishes, until I am sore all over, but the house looks fine after last night's jolly fun.

Wed. 22 Walked over to Sewing School at Mrs. R.H. Wolfe's 1232 Filmore^{2nd} and sewed all day on my new jacket. Got home this evening, to find a card, to meet cousin Minnie Weber-Farrell, on her way home to Depuluth Minn. so I rushed to depot: train on time: took her to Burto's Cafe for Supper, as I was too tired to cook supper; had to set a lunch for my poor Teddy.

Thurs. 23 Went with Minnie to depot this morning as she could only stay over night. We left house at 6:40 and she took 7:30 train. Awfully cold, but I walked from Santa Fe depot to Mrs. Wolfe's 1232 Filmore and enjoyed it. Sewed all day and Mr. + Mrs. A.E. Jones brought me to 11th Woodward on my way home.

Fri. 24 Washed an awfully large washing this morning and went to C.W.B.M. at Mrs. Robertson's, 615 Tyler, this afternoon then up town to shop a little and home.

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November

Sat. 25 I roned until almost noon, and busy as always on Sat. Mrs. Sherman came in this morning for some Suffrage Literature, I being Chairman of Good Government Club, Literature Committee. Well, one hears many comments of satisfaction over the Electrocuting of Henry Clay Beatty Jr. for murder of his wife and the conviction of the men who tarred Miss Chamberlain - a pity they could not be electrocuted, for men who will do so horrible a thing, will do worse: Man a woman's protector? Well, not in these days; he is anything else.

Sun. 26 A fine day, but most too warm, Warren R. walked to S. S. with Fred and me. Almost my whole Class, present, but I had to send Fred Brackett home; he kept shooting one of the most attentive boys in the Class, with "paper wads" until he could stand it no longer. I asked Fred three times not to do so, but he continued his annoyance, until I was compelled to tell him to "quit or go home" and he chose to go home. Fred is an only child and spoiled and very trying in Class.

Walked down to the Church at 3 o'clock to Teachers meeting - only a dozen came. Band home for car. Awfully warm.

November 1911

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Mon. 27 The early morning was pleasant, but by 10 o'clock a regular blizzard was howling; snowing, blowing and freezing, but with all not a bad day. I put together the quilt my boys pieced a week or two ago, and it looks real nice too; took all day.

Tues. 28 Awfully cold - strong wind and only 16° above zero. At 11 o'clock I took the quilt my S. S. boys pieced, down to Mrs. Henderson to get her to quilt it for me and as I came home, run in to Mrs. M. H. Strickler's for a moment and was dumbfounded to find them with a little baby daughter 2 hours old, and Mr. Schwartz had just left to go across street, to help the Goddington's get a baby.

Wed. 29 Bright and sunny, but colder than yesterday my thermometer saying 14° above, while Government Ther. said 7° above. I spent the afternoon with Mrs. Strickler while her sister went to town. "Sunny Jim" doesn't like his little new sister at all - his nose is dreadfully broken. I called up the Goddington's and find they have a baby daughter too - just 1 1/4 hours younger than Strickler's and 1/2 lb. less in weight. Lots of babies in our part of town.



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Thurs. 30 "Thanksgiving day" again, and we have all things to be thankful for. The year has been very good to us. Fred had the afternoon at home as half Holiday. And we enjoyed resting and reading. I did not buy anything for our dinner, yet we had a good one and both have good health to thoroughly enjoy it. I roasted one of our own, fat young pullets, had mashed potatoes and turnips and a nice warm cabbage stew some splendid canned cherries instead of cranberries, and delicious pumpkin pie. We got a letter today from my niece, Goldie Gilbert-Mort, telling us they have a baby daughter born on 20th inst. They live near Bryant, Colo. So now Fred and I are Great Uncle and Aunt.

December

Fri 1st Spent almost the entire day writing letters and it was a glorious day. I wanted to get out for "hike," but over so many letters. Some of my Sunday School Boys were ^{here} this morning and some more this afternoon. Robert Symptom, Harry Davis, Edward Price and two of their boy friends: some of my class always "dropping in" and its nice to have them.



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Sat. 2nd Another fine day and I felt I must spend it all in writing; yesterday and today I sent out close to 40 pieces of mail. And so tonight, I have no more letters.

Sun. 3 A mighty cool morning - in fact cold all day. Warren R. walked to Sunday School with Fred and me. Fred Brackett was back in class this morning, just the same as tho' I did not send him home last Sunday: said he was going to be a good boy and "cut out" all his naughtiness, and the whole class were fine.

This afternoon, two of my class, Robert Simpson and Harry Davis "called," also Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Jones, made a "gate call" and Jesse Shaw, & Verne Chapman and their girls, Miss Dougherty & Miss called. Emma & Ray Spencer spent the evening with us.

Mon. 4 Went to town this morning to do little shopping and pay taxes, then went to Mrs. Jones, 1152 Washburn and together we went to Mrs. Horacek's funeral at 1432 Filmore St. C. it was so sad. After funeral we went to town again, to "shop" a little more.



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December 1911

- Tues. 5 Spent the day at the "Sewing School" Mrs. R.H. Wolfe's, 1232 Filmore. Working on my new coat and it seems an endless ^(Job) job.
- Wed. 6 Another day at the sewing school, Mrs. Jones there too and when he came for her I got to ride most home, with them. They brought me to 11 + Woodward Ave.
- Thurs. 7 And still another day at Sewing School, but my coat was so near finished I got to bring it home with me tonight. "Jonesie" was there sewing too, and I went home with her for supper and Fred came from work. We had a dandy supper of boiled ham, potatoes, Carrots, turnips and Cabbage: O, it was good. We spent ^{evening} with them.
- Fri. 8 I washed a mighty big washing this morning. Mrs. Remington in, this afternoon
- Sat. 9 Did my ironing this morning and it a rainy, gloomy old day.
- Sun. 10 A splendid day. Warren R. walked to S.S. with Fred and me. I had two new boys in my class this morning. Donald Coleman and Geo. Harrison, 39 years ago today I came to Kansas.



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Mon. 11 A grand day. I went to Mrs. M. H. Strickler's this morning to see how the baby girl grows, then went to town shopping. Commenced my Christmas things. Fred carried his bunch this morning so did not come home at noon.

Tues. 12 Not feeling any too good today, so I spent the day reading "A Son of Hagar", one of the books given me by Robert Roth, one of my Sunday School boys - when he left a week ago today, to make his home in Jacksonville Florida. I hate to lose my boys.

Wed. 13 Another day of reading: I seldom put in so much time reading, tho' I love it.

Thurs. 14 An ideal day and after dinner I met by appointment, Mrs. Jones (A.E.) at Frazier's Grocery, 64 Jackson, where were having a "bread contest" and we walked to Good Government Club, at Mrs. J. H. McFarland's 11th and Harrison. After the meeting we went down town and I took car home.

Fri. 15 A fine day. Are having lovely weather. Very busy making Christmas presents. Baked lovely bread today too.



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December 1911

Sat. 16 Clearing, baking and making Christmas presents - a very busy day as usual. I don't ever seem to have anything else but busy days, but I have health ^{and} happiness ^{and} am content, to have all my days, busy ones.

Sun. 17 Cold, raw day. Warren R. walked to S. S. with Fred and me this morning; 26 of my boys present - they are dandy boys. Harry Davis and Edward Price two of my S. S. boys, came in, awhile this afternoon. They are two splendid boys.

Mon. 18 Cold, East wind and heavy fog - had to dry my clothes in the house. Went to Mrs. J. Henderson's, this afternoon for the quilt, my S. S. boys "piced," one evening, when I entertained them. I got her to quilt for me: it looks fine. I went in to Mrs. Remington's and Mrs. M. H. Strickler's to show them the quilt. Read in tonight's paper, of the death of Fred McGord, in Eugene Mo. of Typhoid fever; a boy we both liked. Received a letter this evening from Robert Roth, one of my S. S. boys who has moved to Florida; he is lonely.



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Tues. 19 Another, cold, raw, East wind and a morning of fog, that hazed the atmosphere all day. Making Christmas-presents, and awfully busy.

♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡

Wed. 20 Snowed last night, a very wet snow, which has melted all day and it's very sloppy. I went to town shopping, and met Russell Wilcox and his wife at 10th Brooks, just as they were leaving home, to go to make their home in Newkirk, Okla.: are driving overland in a single buggy with two horses. I am afraid, bad roads and bad weather will make it a hard trip, but they are young - yes and it makes me realize I'm growing old; it seems but yesterday, that Russell was a little fellow in kindergarten and almost lived at our house and we loved him so - he was almost like our own he was with us so much. He married, some girl away from here, was married yesterday. I hope she will make a good wife. I could hardly form an opinion of her they were so bundled up in the buggy.



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December 1911

- Thurs. 21 Christmas mails are so heavy, Fred did not get home to dinner and tonight is tired I wish I could help him.
- Fri. 22 A most beautiful day. Fred had to work all day today and could not get a moment to eat a bite of lunch and tonight is almost or in fact is sick from being so tired. I worked all day cleaning, washing windows and getting ready for Christmas.
- Sat. 23. Just an ideal day and I have worked hard all day - brooding, sweeping, cleaning and decorated the house for Christmas. Fred's work was heavier he has ever had - he worked all day without getting time to eat either dinner or supper and it is a shame: almost 9 o'clock when he got home, and he was so awfully tired, could hardly eat. He mis-counted his "Time" or rather I did for him and he worked 54 minutes "overtime" while he had to work 11 hours and 31 minutes any way.
- Sun. 24 A beautiful morning but clouded over during day. Fred had to work until 1 o'clock. Warren R. went to S.S. with me and we took a car. My class of boys gave me a set of Silver Tablespoons.



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Mon. 25 "Christmas-day" and Fred's hard work makes us dread the day and forget we are celebrating the Birthday of the Savior of the World. A most beautiful day - the weather ideal. Fred worked all day, (no dinner) and I was home alone, all day, except for short call to bring "gifts", of Mr. A. E. Jones, Mrs. W. P. Armstrong and Warren Remington. We received many presents, of Books, Money, China, silverware, handkerchiefs, gloves, towels and of Candy, six boxes, and one of shelled nuts, also of stuffed dates. But tonight, we are so glad the day is over, and the next one, a year away. To us, Christmas, means hard, killing work.

Tues. 26 Sleeted last night - snowing this morning and cold, but the afternoon was sunny. Fred didn't get home to dinner today. Hired a man with horse and buggy, two days last week, and all day yesterday, and this forenoon, to help him, with his mail, just to deliver Packages, and had to pay him five dollars. It is to be hoped the Government will do more for their men, some day.



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December 1911

Wed. 27 An ideal winter day: ground white with snow and "crispy" cold. I gave my Sunday School Class, their third Annual Banquet, this evening, at First Christian Church; I gave them small Remnant-Badges and we had "Toasts" and general good time. Some of the Class were out of town, but 17 of the 25 were present: Lyman King, Ralph Davidson, Ronald McCord, Claude Sunderson, Warren Remington, Billie Badger, Gerald Henryon, William Jackson, Merle Allton, Carl Barnard, Ernest Sheldon, Harry Davis, Donald Coleman, Horace DeGross, Carl Swanson, Ernest Greer and Ralph Spurrier; then I had Fred come from Post-Office and have supper with us. And he and I stayed for Prayer-meeting.

Thurs. 28 Finishing up a dress today that I commenced last August. I have little time to sew.

Fri. 29 Walked down to Mrs. Henderson's this afternoon - 518 Taylor St. - to C.W.B.M. After which went to town shopping.

Sat. 30 Washed an awfully large washing this morning and had to dry it in house as it turned very cold and snowed very hard. Went to town shopping this afternoon and enjoyed the storm.



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Sun. 31 Fred has sorethroat and could not go to Sunday school this morning, but Warren Remington went with mend and we walked all of the two miles thro' a pretty deep snow and the Thermometer registered 5 below; the sun shone warmly however, and it did not seem cold. Only 19 of my boys present tho'; cold kept 6 at home, as I have 25 now. Gas was low and Church too cold to have sermon, so after Communion were dismissed. I came home in a car. Mr.nd Mrs. John Remyer spent the evening with us. And so ends another year; for me, the busiest one of all my life for I have given so much of my time, to my Class of boys, which I must not do another year, for I dreadfully neglected my home work. But O, it's been a blessed work for so many of my Class, "made the good confession" and went into the Church. A busy, happy, prosperous year and both have been spared in best of health. Friends and loved ones, visited us from many states: my father being one; ^{and} there were several deaths, but thro' it all, it has been a blessed year ^{and} I can but pray ^{the new to be} as good.



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January 1912

2200 W-10-st, Topeka, Mo.

Mon. 1

"New Years Day" and I pray God to help me, to live all the year thro' without offense to Him; that He will lead me and mine, in just the way He would have us go. Help us to know His will, and help us to do His will.

The day is cold and snowy; the sun filtered lightly thro' the clouds part of the day, but did not succeed in making a good clear shine of it, all day; and part of the time snow-flakes, were falling. Fred worked over 8 hours today and got home 4:30 most too tired to eat; we never enjoy the Holidays, like most folks do, because it means such hard, killing work for my poor Teddy.

We went to the First Presbyterian Church this evening to the wedding of (my third cousin) Esther Rogers to Robert Pierce. It was a beautiful wedding; the girls were all so sweet, and prettily dressed. Esther was beautiful. Of course Mr. Pierce doesn't count - men never do at weddings. Church was prettily decorated and music good. Mrs. Parkhurst's singing, we enjoyed very much.



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Tues. 2 Another cold day and a few flakes of snow fell, but most of day was bright sunshine. O, I love the cold of Winter-time; its living-time.
My good Teddy did not get home to dinner.
I went in to see Mrs. M.H. Strickler and baby Dorothy and of course "Sunny Jim", about 5 o'clock, this afternoon.

Wed. 3 Another cold day - we are having winter, all in a lump; I finished reading "The Calling of Jan Matthews" today and cannot conceive what a man is like who will write such a book - no Christian, would write such a story: it is wholly against the Church and Christian people and I shall destroy the book, or return it to the one, who gave it to Fred for Christmas. There is no room for such a book in my house. The day has been glorious with sunshine and "Sunny Jim" Strickler was over, for a while this morning, I cut out two night-gowns.

Thurs. 4 Making some new gowns for Fred and myself. We went to the "Grand" tonight to see Thomas Jefferson, in Rip Van Winkle and enjoyed it very much. A cold and "sun-shiny" day and an exquisite night: cold and crispy with a great full moon hanging in a cloudless sky.



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January 1912

Fri. 5 We sleep with our bed-room window wide open, always and never a fire and when we awakened this morning I found my hair, in front, covered with ice where my breath had frozen: the Thermometer had gone to 14° below zero during the night, but we slept warm as toast. This is "good, old Winter-time" and beats "The good old Summer-time" all to pieces, we think. Cold all day.

Sat. 6 Another cold day: 12° below zero, this morning and I enjoy it immensely: how one can work and never get tired. Give me Winter every time. I finished a night-gown for both Fred and I, today and did some Baking.

Sun. 7 Thermometer at ^{12°} below zero, this morning and I walked down to the Church, two miles, this morning for Sunday School, only to find the Church locked and found out later Gas-pressure was too low, to heat the Church. I went over to Congregational and found it in same fix so took car for home. Scarcely a Church in the City had any kind of services today. We were cozy and warm at home.



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Mon. 8 Snowing hard when we got up and found the weather 8° about zero. But long before noon the sun was shining gloriously. You can't keep the sun out of Kansas: it just will shine in spite of anything. Fred did not get home to dinner - Mails very heavy.

Tues. 9 And still its cold, and the sun shines. Fred did not come home to dinner today as I had not felt "best in world" so he got dinner at Lunch Counter and did some "errands" in town. He is a blessed old boy to tie to.

Wed. 10 A most beautiful Winter day. Thermometer stays close to zero and no wind. Oh! its glorious. But there is much suffering among the poor, which saddens me. And deep snows are tying up all trains.

Thurs. 11 A most terrible day - wind terrific ^{and} not a ray of sunshine - O, its fierce; seems as if I burnt a ton of coal today and then could not keep house warm. Below zero and still a going. Brother Will Farnsworth came in from Chicago had supper with us and left on the 11:50 P.M. train; afraid he won't get there as all West trains are snow bound. Going to City of Mexico



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January 1912

Fri. 12 A beautiful day, but cold - the sun is glorious. Thermometer was 19° below zero at 8 o'clock, and that is cold, but no wind. Am reading "The Gentleman from Indiana" by Parkington and it's good - anyway, it's interesting and is a good clean story.

Sat. 13 Cold, when it stays below zero, but I enjoy it immensely. Gave a lot of jelly and some old clothes, but good, and some new clothing, to the Salvation Army today for them to give to poor, needy families. There is much suffering in the City, but our Mayor has started a "Soup-line" which is doing a world of good, for the poor.

Sun. 14 The weather was quite pleasant this morning and Warren R. came over and walked to Sunday School with Fred and me. After Church, Mrs. Gould and little son brought us home in their buggy and the sun was shining. By time we had dinner, it was cold and gray and cloudy and snowing a little and a bunch of my B.S. Boys came for Fred and me to go skating and we all took a "hike" to "Gages" where the Boys enjoyed a couple of hours skating. My skate-strap broke and I could not skate, but I enjoyed the walk.

Another boy came into my class today.
Dillford Burleigh



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Mon. 15 A beautiful day, tho' zero weather. I washed a very large washing and hung out a line full, which froze almost dry - all rest of clothes I dried in house. Fred not home to dinner - mails too heavy.

Tues. 16 Spent afternoon down town shopping and a most beautiful day - so warm it thawed all day, the first in a long time.

Wed. 17 I roned today and wrote letters. A most busy day and an ideal day - thawing. O Kansas, dear old sunny Kansas, you are brimful of sunshine and no winter can hide the glory of your sunshine for long at a time.

Thurs. 18 Another grand day tho' zero this morning but the sun was glorious. I spent the afternoon with Mrs. M.H. Strickler who is having a dreadful time with her breast, since birth of little Dorothy.

Fri. 19 Another day of glorious sunshine. I made a lot of doughnuts this morning and was very busy. This afternoon I called to see Mrs. Remington - trying to see all my neighbors.



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January 1912

- Sat. 20 Another fine day, but is too muddy to go out much, and I've written many letters today. My dear sister Belle, would be 43 yrs. old today if living. O she was a blessed sister.
- Sun. 21 Warren Remington, came over and walked to Sunday School with Fred and me. Just a grand morning - big crowd at S.S. Coming home, it was so muddy and sloppy, we walked on car-track - had thawed and melted all the snow.
- Mon. 22 An ideal day, if there ever was one and I wrote letters hard all day - trying to "catch up" my correspondence, for it will get ahead.
- Tues. 23 Another perfect day - windows open and fire out. O "sunny Kansas" is well named. But I stayed indoors to answer letters and got thro', then Fred brought home a letter this evening - however, it can wait awhile.
- Wed. 24 Another splendid day; Winter is glorious. My baby daughter would be 20 years old today, if living, and Oh! my heart cries for her, always. It has been so hard not to have her, as other mothers have theirs. I went to prayer-meeting this evening and Fred went to Mail-Carriers meeting.



Martha Farnsworth diary

January 1912

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Thurs. 25 An ideal Winter day: just glorious.
I finished the Coat to my suit, that I
got last August, tho' I still have four
buttons to sew on: Buy my Suits after this

Fri. 26 Another fine daynd I washed a very large
washing this morning, then went to
Mrs. F. Iserman's this afternoon to meeting
of my Sec. of the G. W. B. M. A good meeting.

Sat. 27 A most awfully busy day. Killed two Quineas
and an old hen, made a splendid fruit
ginger-bread, and a rice pudding, cleaned
and mopped, and ironed a great big ironing
A neighbor, Mrs. Geo. W. Gailey, died yesterday.

Sun. 28 A sort of mist yesterday and last night,
froze to everything and the ground is
like glass: had to walk in middle of
street, going to Sunday School. Warren R.
went with us. Mr. + Mrs. Ray Spencer
and Mr. + Mrs. A. E. Jones came home, on
a car with us from Church, and at
2 o'clock Mr. + Mrs. McCabe and little
John came out for dinner and the 9
of us, had a jolly time together.
K. L. S. Band at U. S. and an immense
crowd, to help us, in contest with Atchison.

Two new boys in my
class, this morning
Ralph Cook and
William Crocker.

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January 1912

Mon. 29 Cold again and quite a flurry of snow this morning, and at 6 o'clock this evening, there was a mighty fierce flurry of snow, which I came home in, Mrs. A. E. Jones and I having gone together to the ^{Woman's} "Kansas Day Club" at Y. W. C. A. Rooms. A big crowd and fine programme. I enjoyed to the full, every word of Mrs. Atkinson's talk "Kansas Variations". She is a dear little speaker anyway. And Mrs. Lewis (President) was fine.

Citchison S. S. Beat our
Sun. School about 3000
points. A dreadful dreadful.

Tues 30 Thermometer down to 20° above, which seems pretty cold again. Went in to Mrs. Remington's this morning to see Warren, who is sick and this afternoon to see Mrs. Strickler Sunny Jim and Dorothy.

Wed. 31 A fine day, tho' some what cool. We went to Grand Opera House this evening to see Lyman H. Howe's Moving Pictures and they were fine, as always. But the Horse Back riding was a most wonderful feat - simply nerve racking. I had to turn away from watching them jump streams and fall in the water and various such feats.