

# Kansas Memory



## Martha Farnsworth diary

### Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

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 1913 and 1914. 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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September 1913 Paxico, Ks. 87

Thurs. 4 Another fine day in Camp "Scamore La Blanca".  
It's intensely hot out on the road. Mr. Strowig reported  
boys had broken 19 windows out of his Mill and  
we are in a peck of trouble - it will cost them  
something. The boys went up town this evening  
for supplies and were run out of town by a  
gang of drunken toughs, who actually ran  
them, on horses. After this experience had been  
talked over and the Camp had gone to sleep  
the girls were awakened, by voices arguing and  
knew "fish thieves" were back again - we  
called the boys, who with flash-lights and  
plenty of noise, soon frightened them away  
before any of fish were taken - they saw  
three men thro' the darkness - Carl who  
was loud in "threats" and led the "gang" down, was  
first back to Camp, when caught sight of the men.  
some, were "sick" when found - thieves were  
really present, and could not get up - it was  
amusing, to see how their bravery, fell down.  
Hoot and Screech Owls made things lively too.  
And we have had quite, excitement enough to  
suit any one. Mr. & Mrs. Robt. Strowig and  
Mrs. Otto Strowig and daughter, Irene, spent  
the evening with us! We had an  
unusually fine Camp-fire this evening and  
have been most happy in spite of all  
trouble and excitement. Harry and Warren killed a  
bird water moccasin.

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September 1913 Paxico, Kansas.

Fri. 5<sup>th</sup> Camp "Sycamore La Blanca" - Having our usual good time - our fine swims, lots of fish etc. In spite of having to cook for so many, I'm having a real vacation and resting. While the drought is bad, the water here at this place, is still running and clear, cold and finest ever, for swimming, and we all regret exceedingly, that we must go home tomorrow. We have plenty of "Hoot owl" music up here. The Receiver of the Mill, came this evening to settle with the boys, for broken windows; he is an awfully ill-natured fellow - old crank.

Sat. 6

Up early, and enjoying the cool of the Camp; gathering up the "odds and ends" and preparing to go home. Mrs. Otto Strong and daughter Rose, spent most of forenoon with us: the boys and girls took a morning swim, and fished awhile. Carl, catching a fine "Cat Fish" weighing close to 6 pounds which he brought home. We bought a young cow (2 yr. old) of Otto Strong, paying \$60. <sup>in</sup>, a "Red Poll and Jersey" mix. We all went for our last swim, early this afternoon, then took down our tents, packed, and left our "happy Camp Grounds" at 5:30, took 6.44 train for Topeka and arrived home about 8 o'clock happy, tired, hot, and all of us sorry to leave Camp.

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September 1913 Topeka, No. 89

Sun. 7 Up early, but it's dreadfully hot in Topeka. and by time the work was done, I had to "hustle" and catch a car, to be on time, at Sunday School; Fred & Freda came later. We stayed for church today, to hear Brother Finch's, brother Rev. Robert Lyle Finch, preach and we liked his sermon very much - his "delivery" is better than our Pastor's Rev. Chas. A. Finch. Fred Brackett, Bobt. Simpson, Carl Swanson, <sup>and</sup> Ronald McCord, spent afternoon with us and Jessie Remington - of course conversation, was "Camp".

Mon. 8 Hot day - few sprinkles of rain - Got Mrs. Davis to wash for me this week, as I am rather played out. Mrs. Monroe called this afternoon, Warren Remington, Ray Bayinger, Ralph Burgett and Hazel Sillix, here this evening. Ernest Shelden here at noon. All the boys paid me their portion, of the cost of repairing and replacing windows which they broke in the Paxton Mill. Mrs. Monroe wanted me to be a Deputy Police at the Fair Grounds this week and I would have been proud to be, only I'm not well. Read in tonight's paper, of the murder today in Los Angeles, of my Cousin by adoption, Mrs. Gertrude Rogers Dyer, by her husband. I had not seen her for years.

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Tues. 9 Another hot day and wish I was back in Camp "Sycamore La Blanca". Post Office closed this afternoon for the "Fair" and it gave Fred a half day at home, as neither of us cared to go.

I sent the boys money, to Mr. Oscar Schmitz Alma, Ks. this morning, to pay damage done Paxico Mill, by windows they broke. Mr. Schmitz is the "Receiver" and a crank - let the boys never break another window - cost them \$15.55

Warren Remington and Mr. Frank Washburn, went with Fred this evening, to Rock Island Yards to help him bring our cow home, that was sent down to us by freight, from Paxico.

Cost us \$4.80 freight. Got home with her, about 10 o'clock and she was very quiet & well behaved, but so hungry and thirsty: gave about 3 qts. milk: a very gentle little thing.

Wed. 10 Another hot day. I sent check for \$60.00 to Mrs. Otto Strouig, this morning, made out to Robt. Strouig, to pray for our cow, Freda went down to Hazel Hillix this morning to stay over night. A good hard rain, came up at 5 o'clock and now at bed time it is still raining splendidly and its cool. Our first real rain in months in fact the first, since last Spring. This we've had sprinkles and few showers.

Ronald McCord and  
Robert Symphon called.

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Thurs. 11 Cooler and rained very hard most of forenoon - rained all last night - and rained lightly most of afternoon so our drought is broken and we will have cooler weather. Too busy to know which end I stand on. Hazel Sillix came home with Freda this evening to stay all night and Ralph Burgett, came out with them.

Fri. 12 A most splendid day, bright, cool and sunny. Hazel Sillix here all day and night and I gave a "Goodbye" Party this evening, for one of my S. S. girls, Ralph Davidson, who leaves tomorrow for Manhattan, to enter College - such a splendid young man, and I shall miss him greatly; he has missed but about four Sundays in six years. Those at the Party, were, Ralph Davidson with Miss Roller & Miss Eberhardt, Ronald Mcgard with Gladys Organ, Jay Banta, Walter Polley, Merle Alton, Chas. Plath, Warren Remington, Ernest Sheldon, Harry Davis, Billie Badger, Robert Simpson, Edward Price, Fred Brackett, Layman King (Layman came in his first long pants, and how fine he looked) Ethel Shepard, the Dillon twins, Berna Marple, Vera Hanna, Gertrude Oldings, Jennie Remington. And we had a splendid evening, tho' a Farewell. Youth is young and does not realize that Ralph will probably never be with us again in a class party.

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September 1913 Topeka, Ks.

Sat. 13 Another fine day. Very busy cooking. Freda swept and washed "refreshment" dishes left from last night. She went home with Hazel this afternoon, to stay all night. I worked all day and am tired tonight, so to bed early.

Sun. 14 Another fine day and Fred and I walked to Sunday School (Warren R. with us) and stayed for Church, then walked home. Freda came home from S.S. Lyman King, Robert Simpson, Fred Brackett, Ronald McFaroal, Warren Remington, Carl King and Thea Baker were here this afternoon. Had twenty boys in class this morning; two new ones, Edas, Graves and Elmo Madolen - Elmo's parents were young folks in the church, with me 26 yrs. ago, and are now Missionaries at Ossawka, Japan. I have a wonderful class. Sept. King told me this morning, "they were certainly a loyal bunch of boys!"

Mon. 15 Rained most of morning, but I hung my clothes out, and they dried, and after dinner I went to town with Freda and Thea Baker to buy school clothes for Freda. Bought her under-clothes,  $\$1.10$ , Petticoat  $\$1.95$ , dress skirt  $\$0.50$ , jacket  $\$5.00$  and Rain-coat  $\$10.00$ . What a lot she has cast us and is so unappreciative.

*Marj. 15  
Wore Allie's coat  
evening with us and  
it rained very  
hard.*

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Tues. 16 Rained and worked all day, making Grape Marmalade. Gloomy, misty and rained some. Freda started to High School, this morning: didn't want to go, but I won't stand for a girl, out of school; I mean to make something of her, if it can possibly be done.

Wed. 17 Rained most all morning. Finished canning my Grape marmalade and put in a busy day.

Thurs. 18 Another busy day - and a dark, gloomy day quite cool. In at Mrs. Bennington's this morning for an hour or two. Freda seems much interested in her school work.

Fri. 19 Clearing and cool - Busy all day, baking. Had Mr. & Mrs. Jones, for dinner, tonight and to spend evening (Mrs. Jones is in Calif) Merle Allton also ate dinner with us and spent evening and Jennie Bennington, too, spent the evening. They helped Freda with her lessons and then we had music, singing and whistling. 26 yrs. today, I came to Topeka.

Sat. 20 Some more baking today. Freda went down to Hazel Sillix this afternoon to stay all night. My! its fine and cool - feels like frost tonight. Little cow giving fine milk and making nice Butter.

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Sun. 21 A splendid day - so cool had to wear my jacket this morning to Sunday School - Darren R. walked down with Fred and me. I only had 17 boys in Class, some of them rather talked too much, and didn't pay very much attention to the lesson. Ernest Sheldon, Carl Swanson, Merle Allton and Walter Palley, were the offending boys. This afternoon, Merle Allton, Robert Simpson, Harry Davis, Ernest Sheldon, Walter Palley, Charlie Plath, Ronald McGord, Elmo Madden, Bernice Tullock Warren and Jennie Remington, came in. I hope to organize a "Glee Club" in my class, for there are some splendid singers, and this evening, Merle Allton called again with his friend Robt. Williard (a door-step call) Freda staid all night with Thea, tonight. We had considerable fun over a "mock trial" this afternoon, when Elmo Madden and Bernice T. were "tried" for "getting away" with a "dime" belonging to Jennie, and we could not prove them guilty.

Mon. 22 Splendidly cool all day - washed good big washing. Mrs. Remington came in this afternoon. Freda to Thea all afternoon - She could be of much help to me, but instead, is a great trial - does so little to help me.

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Martha Farnsworth diary

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Tues. 23 Another cool day - Fred having day of vacation. Freda had long lessons assigned her this morning so I spent all afternoon helping her get them, and had Fred go to town and get her "Gymnasium shoes" and material for "Bloomers" which I cut out and she made just before supper, then we three got ready and went to Grand Opera House to see Edison "Talking Moving pictures" and they were great. I canned a crate of blue-plums and one of peaches this morning - worked very hard all day, but enjoyed, immensely, the pictures. This evening - not too tired for pleasure.

Wed. 24 Fred having another day of vacation and home today - Got in a small load of Alfalfa today, noon, for the cow - not quite a ton and cost us. \$14.75 Rained a little  
*Churned and  
left Mrs. Bettie  
some butter  
with this  
morning*

Thurs. 25 Fred home today again - vacation - putting up shelves in "stormkitchen" - a slow "jolley" fellow, around the house - don't accomplish much, but best man under the sun - ought to have done in one day, all he has done in three. Quite cold all day this fine <sup>and</sup> sunny.  
*Mr. R. T. Wilcox called this morning*

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Fri. 26 Fred went to work this morning. I've been very busy all day. Freda stayed all night with Thea Baker tonight - she is never satisfied to stay home - always "gadding".

Sat. 27 Cool and pleasant - Freda came home about 10 o'clock this morning and helped a little with the work - run the sweeper over the rugs and dusted - then off with Thea this afternoon again. I don't know what I will ever do with her - doesn't amount to much.

Sun. 28 Rainy, muddy morning - I walked to Sunday-School alone - Fred stayed home to rest.  
*Two new boys in  
class this morning  
Conrad is tall and  
John Coleman is  
don't feel so belong*  
This afternoon Harry Davis and Robt. Simpson called. Freda at Thea's. Cold enough for fire in grate. Thea Baker and Ray Baysinger came home with Freda and spent evening and Thea stayed all night. We all enjoyed the fire.

Mon. 29 A grand day, tho' cool. Washed large washing this morning and went to Mrs. J. D. McFarland's this afternoon to help write wrappers to mail-out, Good Government Year Books.

Tues. 30 Ironed all morning and peeled onions and cauliflower and cucumbers for mustard pickles all afternoon - dead tired tonight

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Wed. 1 Most awfully busy all day - made Mustard mixed pickles and sweet pickle Peaches and preserves - Got half Bu. Peaches from Mrs. Bettie.

Thurs. 2 Worked with Peaches all forenoon - got a little rest this afternoon, but my! I've hardly had a breathing spell all week

Fri. 3 Another very busy day. I baked some of the loveliest bread today, I've had in many a day. Fried chicken too <sup>2nd</sup> baked apples.

Sat. 4 Busy as could be all day - nothing seemed to go right either, stormy too. Washed my hair and took good hot bath, to quiet my nerves, for I never give up to them - never let myself know I have any nerves. Ronald McGord came in, to dress, this afternoon, for Foot Ball game with Lawrence. Beat Le. 24 to 18 - (Colay School)

Sun. 5 Fred stayed home today to rest - hot day. Warren walked to Sunday School with me. I stayed for Church, after which, Mrs. Fisher and I walked home together, far as her house. Ronald McGord and Edward Price, came out this afternoon. Most of my boys were very "trying" this morning.

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Mon. 6 A "gumy," sticky, hot day, full of humidity, and I had a pretty big, hard washing. Rained very hard this evening. Mrs. Going told me yesterday, of what a dreadfull time her daughter, Margaret Going-Patten has just passed thro' in becoming a mother. She had to be operated upon, and have the child taken out thro' the side and it was such a long operation and had to give her so much Chloroform, that it killed the baby, a fine little girl, and which was alive, when the mother was placed upon the operating table. God, alone, knows the suffering these poor mothers go thro', for the joy of motherhood. And God alone, comforts.

Tues. 7 Canning, writing letters and most awfully busy all day - and still its sticky weather.

Wed. 8 An ideal day and I was busy Canning Peaches until 3 o'clock, at which time, Jesse L. Shaw (nephew of my first husband) made me a Call with his Bride. Married Miss Maudie Bell at Dr. Estey's then came out and called on me - he is a fine boy and she a sweet little girl. After their call, Freda and I went to Mrs. Strickler's a moment then to call on one of my Sunday School Boys, Will

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Jackson, who has been very sick with Pneumonia. Took him a dozen of our lovely Peaches. Came home and took some peaches and a pitcher of cream, over to Mrs. C. Goddard's and spent a pleasant hour, then went to call on Mrs. A. Mcree, who has been quite sick, so it was late when I got home to get supper, but it has been a very full, happy, day.

Thurs. Oct 9 Hot all day - had a "shower" this afternoon. Staid up last night until ten minutes of Twelve, working a Problem for Freda (sent her to bed at ten o'clock) and when she came home at noon, said it was only one, she had right. At 1 o'clock today I went to J. W. Swichard's funeral of their 15 year old daughter, Stella, who died yesterday of Tuberculosis - Six of her girl friends were Pall-bearers. From the Funeral, I went to meeting of the Good Government Club, at G.W.C.A. Big crowd and fine meeting - of course, being Treasurer I had to be there and there was much business. Freda out with young widower Hilton this evening and told us she staid at his for Supper.

Fri. 10 Very, very busy all day - went to Teacher's conference at Church this evening, where we had our Supper together

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Sat. 11 Another very busy day, but fine and cool so made work easy. I called few minutes at Mrs. H. Larimer's, to take a few of our nice peaches, this afternoon.

Sun. 12 Warren R. walked to Sunday School, with Fred and me this morning: fine and cool. We staid to church and was fair sized crowd. This being Will Jackson's 17 Birthday, the class bought him a dozen, pink and white Carnations, and a large part of the class came out and took them to him (he has pneumonia) Lyman King, Ernest Sheldon, Harry Davis, Elmo Madden, Robt. Simpson, Ronald McGord and Edward Price, spent the afternoon and evening with us, and we all, except Ernest and Lyman, walked out to Gage Park. The boys had "Bread and Milk" supper with us - also gave them cake and apples - Billie Badger, Merle Allton, Jennie Remington and Berrie Tullock called this evening. Boys sang, fine.

Mon. 13 A fine day and a most busy one, and the Moon, is glorious these nights. Busy in afternoon helping Freda with her "Problems" just like being in school myself.

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Tues. 14 Ironing and very busy and helping Freda with her lessons - my!! what dreadfully long lessons the teachers assign I beyond reason and sense. Thea Baker here to supper and Billie Badger and Merle Allton, with John Burleigh, and Miss Fritz came for Freda and Thea and took them for an automobile ride to Silver Lake, this evening.

Wed. 15 Very busy and beside am trying to "catch up" my correspondence. Raining hard this evening and the "glorious moon" is drowned out.

Thurs. 16 Busy all day, helping Freda with problems and commenced a quilt for a wedding present for one of our neighbor girls - Of these busy days.

Fri. 17 Busy with many things all day. Freda went to "show" tonight with Guy Hilton, a young widower - I am afraid of widowers, for they Court fast and furious and a girl can scarcely ever escape them; beside, Freda has been pursuing him for some time.

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October 1913

Sat. 18 Finest kind of day - light frost last night very light and our first this Fall. Busy all morning baking and to town shopping this afternoon: bought a "Steak Set" for a wedding present to David Owen and Fern Clemmons: cold tonight.

Sun. 19 Warren Remington, Fred and I, walked to Sunday School together and a fine morning. When we came out of church, it was very cold and blowing and was snowing on us before we got home. A very cold, blustering afternoon and I did not suppose any one would come out, but ten of my boys came and Jennie Remington - Young folks will come, regardless of weather and the boys who came, were Edward Rice, Elmo Madsen, Ronald McCord, Ernest Shelden, Fred Brackett, Harry Davis, Glyde Warren, Robt. Simpson, Warren Remington and Kenneth Rice.

Mon. 20 Another fine day and as busy as are all the days. I never see an idle moment.

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Tues. 21 Rained a little last night. very busy all day; did my ironing, ran in to Mrs. M. H. Strickler's on an errand. bought Cabbage to make Sauer Kraut, helped Freda with her problems etc. Deaconess Benedict of Lourdes Methodist Church, here to see Freda and later Rev. Frisch, Mrs. Matthe Hayes and Mrs. Yetter called and I went with them to call on Mrs. A. McKee who is sick. Freda, has been desperately chasing widower Hillton and at last "landed him": went to Show with him to night. She certainly has been a great trial to us.

Wed. 22 Rained a wee bit this morning and drearily gloomy but afternoon was glorious. This evening Jennie Warren Remington, went to the church with Freda, Fred and me, to the wedding of David Owen and Fern Clemmons and it was a very, very pretty wedding, tho' we all think so much of David, that we have never seen a woman good enough for him - Fern is a very sweet girl, yet no one thinks her the proper mate for David.

Thurs. 23 A grand day and I hoped to get much work done, but Mrs. Lola Rungier came about 9 o'clock and stayed until 12:20, just to see me about letting Freda join methodist church. Now we give Freda a home and its a Christian home and I feel as capable of taking care of her spiritual needs as her physical needs, especially as I pray to same God they do. I don't need any of their meddling help at all.

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October 1913

Fri. 24 We made Kraut last night and today I made Buttercup Sauce and got every thing prepared for Picalilli, Mango's etc. I worked from 6 A.M. to 9:15 P.M. without stopping to even eat my dinner. Fred did not come home to dinner, stayed to label his Case. Freda had her widower here to spend the evening.

Sat. 25 A fine day but I was too busy to see it - worked all day hard, making Picalilli, stuffing Mango's and making Chili sauce. Freda's girl friends in Sunday School Class were here all afternoon, practicing play they are going to give. Deaconess Benedict called again and I was compelled to tell her, I did not thank them for, poking their noses in my affairs and that they had much better be spending their time, looking after, those who were never in Sunday School ~~but~~ not in Christian homes.

Sun. 26 Stormy cold day; Fred stayed home to put up stone. Warren Remington walked to Sunday School with me. Ralph Davidson, home from College on vacation was in class this morning - I had 17 boys present and Harry Davis, Robt. Simpson, Edward Price promised to unite with church next Sunday and Merle Allton partially promised and my heart was made very happy; only God knows how happy. This afternoon Ronald Melford, Ernest Sheldon, Robt. Simpson, Lyman King, Harry Davis and Edward Price came out for the afternoon. Freda's "Widower" Hilton came this evening.

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Mon. 27 An ideal day - washed a large washing. Bought a bushel of shelled Walnuts, from two "Trustys" from the Asylum: one had a very hard face and one a kindly gentle face and I wondered what sin had clouded their intellect: poor unfortunate fellows Human beings, yet not in the world, yet not in it.

Tues. 28 On the "bum" as was the day - have a cold and have worked myself sick: did little but my ironing: with early morning, came a sprinkle of rain, then a little sleet, then snow and by noon a heavy snow was falling - just cold and "blowy" this afternoon, and Winter-time.

Wed. 29 Not snowing today, but cold and disagreeable, and it seems strange to have Winter so early. Very busy all day and "bum" with head cold.

Thurs. 30 Pretty fair kind of a day: so very busy all day.

Fri. 31 A pretty day and the evening good. Fred and I went to the Lyman Home, moving pictures this evening: we enjoyed them very much, yet they were the poorest he has ever shown here - but always his "shows" are far excellence. Freda went out for Halloween pranks, with Guy Hilton and some other young people.

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November 1913

Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> A beautiful evening, as has been the day, and we all went to a Hallowe'en, Masquerade Party at Mrs. McCormas' 1263 Van Buren, given by Merle Baucker's Sunday School Class of girls for my class of Boys. We had a splendid time: all the girls, masked but few boys did. Vera Hanna came out to stay all night with us, and went with us to the Party, masked as a negro woman and "made good"; Jennie Bennington also went with us and dressed as a Gamma Gamma girl; many at the Party dressed in that costume. Fred did not mask; Freda and Thea Baker dressed as "skeletons" and were "great" - wore long black robes on which was painted the bones of a skeleton, both front and back and wore skeleton false faces. I represented "night," in an entire black costume, with gold stars pasted all over it: no one recognised me, nor dressed like me: were many good costumes: Ronald McGord was fine as a girl.

Sun. 2. Warren walked to Sunday School with Fred & me. I had one new boy, L. O. Davis from Nevada Mo. The Boys were "noisy" and very trying this morning in class, but was made very happy when Harry Davis, Edward Price & Robt. Simpson, went forward and made the "Good Confession" after Sunday School; and

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my niece, Freda Gilbert, also went at same time, and Elmo Madden, one of my boys, went in by "Statement". And tonight my heart is very glad, very grateful to God, that he has heard the cry of my heart for "souls" - that he has helped me to win these for Christ - when I go down into the depths of despair, because so many are "knocking" then God lifts me up again and makes my heart glad, by touching some heart to make the "Good Confession" before men. Harry Davis, Ernest Shelden and Lyman Sing, were out this afternoon. Rather disagreeable day.

Mon. 3 Rather cold and appearance of storm. I hurried thro' with my washing and went to see my neighbor, Mrs. McFee who has been very sick with Jaundice, but is better.

Tues. 4 A cloudy damp chilly day and I was very busy - I never have a moment to play -

Wed. 5 A grand day - just grand and while had lots to do, I took time to go to Mrs. G. Remington's this afternoon to call on her mother-in-law, Mrs. Remington of Idaho. My heart is full of gladness these days because my boys (S.S. boys) are coming into the Church - it is a great happiness to me.

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Martha Farnsworth diary

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November 1913 - Topeka KS  
2200 W-10-st.

Thurs 6 A fine day, tho' a little too warm. Worked very hard preparing a nice Supper for my boys who were to be Baptized tonight, but there was some misunderstanding of the invitation, no one but Merle Allton, came to Supper - Jennie Remington a friend of Freda's, also came. Mr. Guy Hilton came to go to Church with Freda, and Warren Remington, Robt. Simpson, Elmo Madden (my boys) came to go to the church with us, for Baptismal services - we got there just as prayer-meeting closed. Freda was Baptized first, then Merle Allton - he did not go "forward" with the other boys Sunday, so made the "Good Confession", this evening after he entered the water, for Baptism - how noble he looked, as he gave his answer, in a strong, resolute voice; and so sweet and handsome: Edward Price was next, then Robert Simpson, and Harry Davis. My heart was overflowing with happiness and I could not keep back my tears. They all looked so fine and it was such a pretty Baptismal Service. I heard Bro. Finch say it was one of the prettiest Baptismal services he ever performed. After Baptism, all the boys, but Merle Allton, came home with us, also Fred Brackett, Elmo Madden and Rev. Finch, and I gave them the Baptismal Supper tho' it had grown cold: however they pronounced it good.

Fred at home today for a day of vacation.

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Fri. 7 A very busy day, but so full of joy to me because of Freda's and the boys' Baptism. Freda is becoming a much better girl, but it has been a long hard pull, to get her started in the right way. Edward Price has given me much trouble in Sunday-school, but all are well-meaning boys. Robert Simpson, has a hot quick temper but soon over; an affectionate boy. Harry Davis is a boy, a real boy, and an ideal boy. I think as near perfect as any boy could be. I've never yet seen him angry - a boy whose very eyes laugh - always the sweetest smile shining out of his eyes. And Merle Allton too, is so dear. I've seen him angry, tho' never at me and never after out of humor at any one - he is a fine, clean boy - very dear and lovable, and how I love them all, I almost idolize them.

Cousins Frank & Vira Van Orsdol and little Raymond came for dinner today - and brought me a nice duck to have for Thanksgiving. I gave them a pair of guineas. I am going to get rid of my guineas as the town is growing up around us so fast there is no "range" for them any more. A hard cold wind blew up from North West this afternoon about 4 P.M.

# Kansas Memory



KANSAS  
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## Martha Farnsworth diary

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November 1913

Sat. 8 Bright, sunny, day but a cold wind blowing I hurried this with my work, and spent afternoon down town paying bills and doing a little shopping. This evening, Freda, and Fred & me, together with Jennie Remington went to the Y.M.C.A. to see a Basket-ball game between my boys, and North Topeka Baptists. My boys won, 12 to 2 - the opening game of the season, in the church League. My boys who played, were Lyman King, Edward Price, Walter Dally, Harry Davis, Ronald McGord and Charlie Platth. We enjoyed the game very much.

Sun. 9 A fine, sunny, "Sunny Kansas" day. Fred and me walked alone to Sunday School and church this morning. Merle Allton, Charlie Platth, Lyman and Carl King, here all afternoon, also Freda's, Mr. Guy Hilton. We all went to church this evening, as Freda and the boys were to receive the "hand of fellowship". A lot of my boys were at church - Fred Brackett, was behaved very badly; he is very trying.

Mon. 10 Cold today, but sunny: had a very large washing this morning, helped Freda with her problems this afternoon. Wrenched my back this morning lifting gasoline stove - am very tired tonight.  
Mrs. Remington  
and Merle King  
Remington  
called this  
afternoon.

# Kansas Memory



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## Martha Farnsworth diary

November 1913

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Tues. 11 A fine day, tho' a storm seems brooding. Had a large ironing to do this morning and helped Freda with her problems most of the afternoon. Merle Allton spent the evening with us.

Wed. 12 A fine day and a most busy one and the night gloriously grand, the "Wolf Moon" at its best. Bernice Tulloch Warren and Jennie Remington, Laurent Elspey, and Jeanette Schwartz all here this evening, to play games in the yard with Freda. I went over to neighbor, A. McKee's, to sit up with Mrs. McKee who is very sick with yellow jaundice. Mrs. A. E. Jones came down to, and sat up with me. We were up all night.

Thurs. 13 Another fine day - I came home from McKee's at 5:30 this morning did the milking, got breakfast then lay down and slept until nearly noon - helped Freda with her lessons this afternoon. Three of my boys were this evening, Merle Allton Rabt. Simpson and Elmo Madden. We certainly enjoy these boys.

# Kansas Memory



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Martha Farnsworth diary

114

November 1913

Fri. 14 Had a hard, thunder storm, just before "getting-up-time" this morning and has been a drizzly, mucky day, spoiling the "Wiene-roast" we were to have at Children's Park this evening. but we let them bring their "Wiener's" and come to the house and we had a fine evening - roasted the Wiener's over the grate fire, but so stormy only about half came and those were, Ronald McCord, Robt. Sympson, Merle Allton, Walter Polley, Edward Price, Lyman King, Fred Brackett, Ernest Shelden with Maude Duckett, Harry Davis with Helen Rutledge, Elmo Madden, with Bernice Tullock, Lois Bennett, Thelma McGomas, Verna Marple, Ethel Shepard; beside the Buns and roasted "Wiener's" they ate a half bushel of Apples.

Sat. 15 A nasty, sticky, gloomy day, rainy day, and I was very busy with baking while Freda cleaned up last night's dirt. Harry Davis, Elmo Madden and Robt. Sympson, came out this morning staid for dinner and went home about 3 o'clock. We all went to bed early tonight.

# Kansas Memory



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## Martha Farnsworth diary

November 1913

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Sun. 16 A fine day - Warren walked to Sunday School with Fred and me this morning. I have 21 boys enroled, and 21 present this morning and they were splendidly attentive in Glass. My heart was glad because they were so fine, but when we went back to Assembly, my heart was sad because they were so naughty - Fred Brackell and Ernest Sheldon were very noisy, and I have almost made up my mind, there is nothing to do but put them out of the Glass. Mr. Tee scolded me this morning for their conduct yet it was no more my fault than his. Lyman King came out this afternoon to bring some pictures.

Mon. 17 A dreary, misty, wet day and had to dry my clothes in the house. Freda sick all night went to school, but had to come home middle of forenoon; her side, causes her much trouble because of "adhesion" due to her operation for appendicitis. I hope she won't have to have another operation - I will get science first.

Tues. 18 A fine day - churned and ironed and had a very busy day. Merle Allton and Freda's "widower" Hilton spent evening here. I called to see Mrs. McFee

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## Martha Farnsworth diary

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November 1913

Wed. 19 Awfully warm, otherwise fine. Fred and I went to dinner this evening at Mrs. Bell's, 117 Quinton Boulevard. Mr. & Mrs. Will Shaw, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Shaw and little Frank Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Shaw and Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Smith were the others. We had a very happy evening together. Freda had to stay home to get her lessons and Jennie Remington came over and helped her and stayed all night.

Thurs. 20 Another warm, cloudy day. Merle Allton and Mr. Hilton here again this evening. Just about bed-time a hard, dashing rain came up, hard for awhile but soon over.

Fri. 21 An "ideal" day and I gave a dinner tonight for Mrs. Lilla Day Morrissey Mrs. J. D. McFarland, Mrs. Gillian Mitchener Miss Gertrude Barnes and Mrs. E. E. Rodebush. Jennie Remington came over and helped Freda serve it in four courses, and we had such a splendid evening together. First course was Grapefruit with cherries and nuts - 2<sup>nd</sup> (sweet pickles, celery and cottage cheese Pine-apple sliced, upon which was a block of honey, (at each plate) were on table)  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a roasted young Guinea, mashed potatoes and corn. 3<sup>rd</sup> course Fried Oysters, Bean Salad, 4<sup>th</sup> Pumpkin-pie + Coffee, 5<sup>th</sup> Brick ice cream and hot ginger-bread - O it was jolly.

# Kansas Memory



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## Martha Farnsworth diary

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Sat. 22 A most awfully busy day, and I was to go to Mrs. Jim Herriott's funeral at 2 P.M. then to called meeting of Good Government Club but could not get there in time to go either place - it is work work all the time, but I'm glad for good health, that makes me able to do so much. I called a Christian Science Practitioner this afternoon, to work for Freda, for it is either that or the Hospital again and I am going to give Science the first "try" this time. I feel she is safer in the Lord's hands.

Sun. 23 Fred and I walked to and from church and Sunday School this morning - I had 21 boys present in class, and all behaved splendidly but Fred Brackett, whom I had to scold for insisting on dancing and then he "sulked".

I am in utter despair about the boy and have about decided, I will have to drop him from the class. Jennie Remington came from S.S. with Freda and had dinner with us.

My boys who called this afternoon, were Lyman King, Ernest Shelden, Harry Davis, Elmo Madden, Warren Remington, Edward Price, Walter Polley, Ronald McGord and Fred Brackett and Fred was still "protesting". Freda's widower Hilton of course, spent the evening with her and he is certainly a "stayer".

# Kansas Memory



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Martha Farnsworth diary

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November 1913

Mon. 24 A fair day, and my big washing dried nicely - helped Freda with her "Problems" all afternoon; put in a good part of Sunday afternoon, or there's too. Wonder if it pays to give all one's time to a girl who is utterly selfish and does not appreciate the least thing done for her. She is an "ingrate that turns and bites the hand that feeds her". I have found out she lies shamefully about both her uncle Fred and me. I only bear with her hoping to make a better girl of her - no one else will do anything for her and her mother cannot, so the great trial falls to me.

Tues. 25 Such a misty, drizzling day and I was all day ironing, because of many interruptions: Mrs. C. Godard called me over to her house in forenoon, to talk with me about poor Mrs. McFee whom the doctors (Jeffries and Mulvane) have given up to die (of dropsy). Later I took some flowers and went over to see Mrs. McFee - she is so cheery. Sure she one of my family, I would call Christian Science to help, for now that doctors can do no more why not ask God to spare her life to them.

Sent my sister in dinner dress and glass of milk for Thanksgiving.