Martha Farnsworth diary

Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

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 1915 and 1916. 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

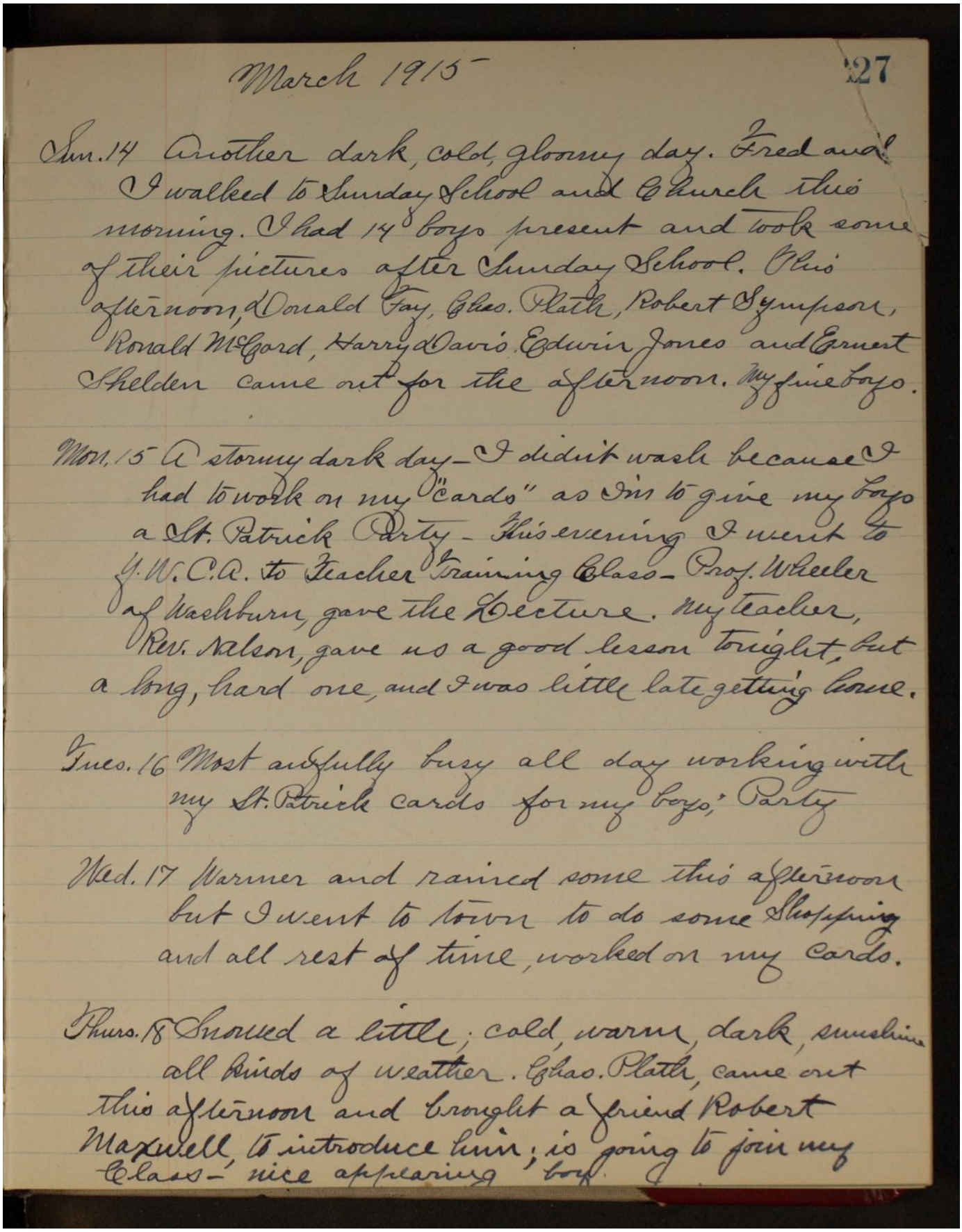
Date: January 01, 1915-December 31, 1916

Callnumber: Martha Farnsworth Coll. #28 Box 3

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 304124

Item Identifier: 304124

www.kansasmemory.org/item/304124



March 1915 — 27

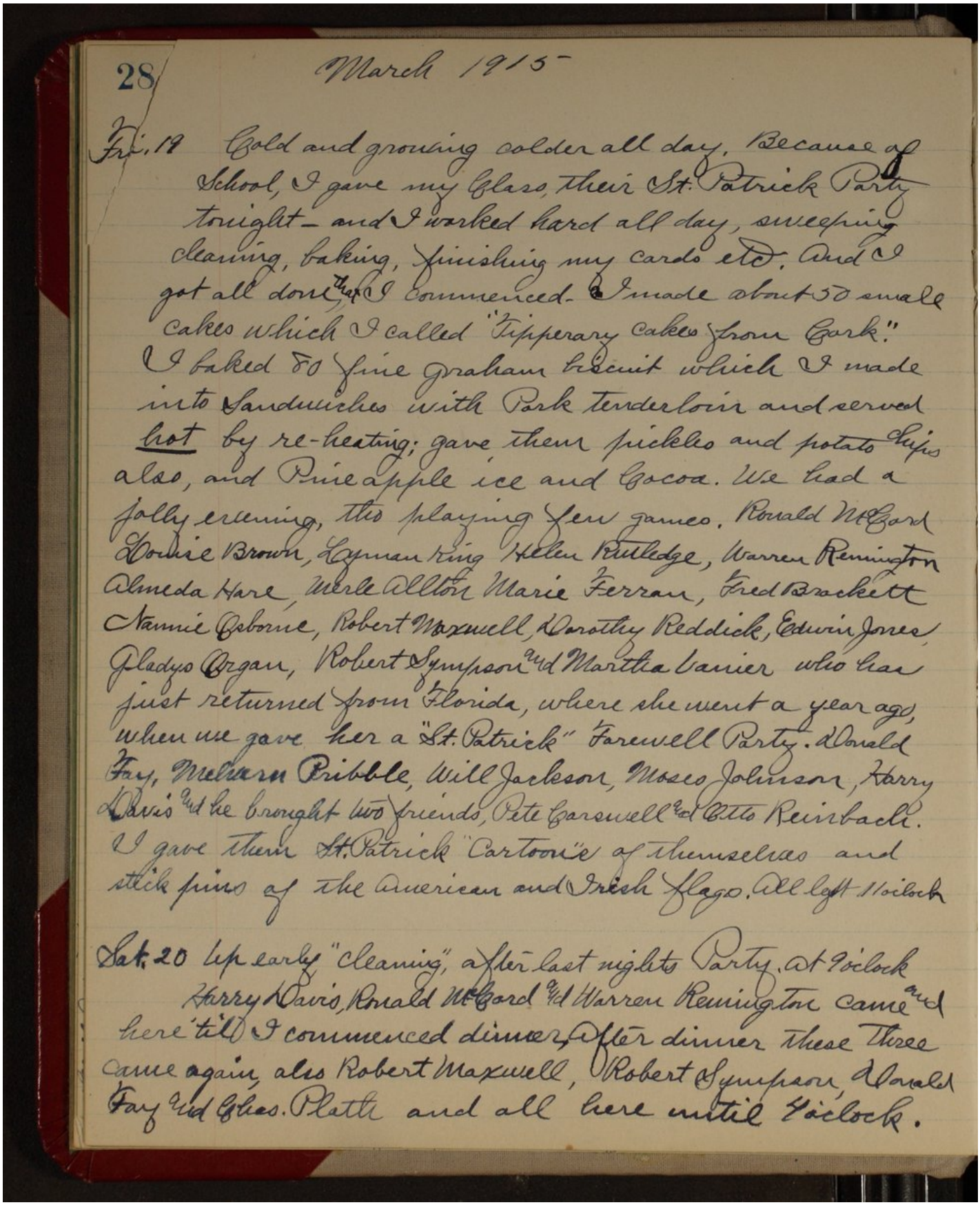
Sun. 14 Another dark, cold, gloomy day. Fred and I walked to Sunday School and Church this morning. I had 14 boys present and took some of their pictures after Sunday School. This afternoon, Donald Fay, Chas. Plath, Robert Sympson, Ronald McCord, Harry Davis, Edwin Jones and Ernest Shelden came out for the afternoon. My fine boys.

Mon. 15 A stormy dark day — I didn't wash because I had to work on my "cards" as I'm to give my boys a St. Patrick Party — This evening I went to Y. W. C. A. to Teacher Training Class — Prof. Wheeler of Washburn, gave the Lecture. My teacher, Rev. Nelson, gave us a good lesson tonight, but a long, hard one, and I was little late getting home.

Tues. 16 Most awfully busy all day working with my St. Patrick cards for my boys' Party

Wed. 17 Warmer and rained some this afternoon but I went to town to do some Shopping and all rest of time, worked on my Cards.

Thurs. 18 Snowed a little; cold, warm, dark, sunshine all kinds of weather. Chas. Plath, came out this afternoon and brought a friend Robert Maxwell, to introduce him; is going to join my Class — nice appearing boy.



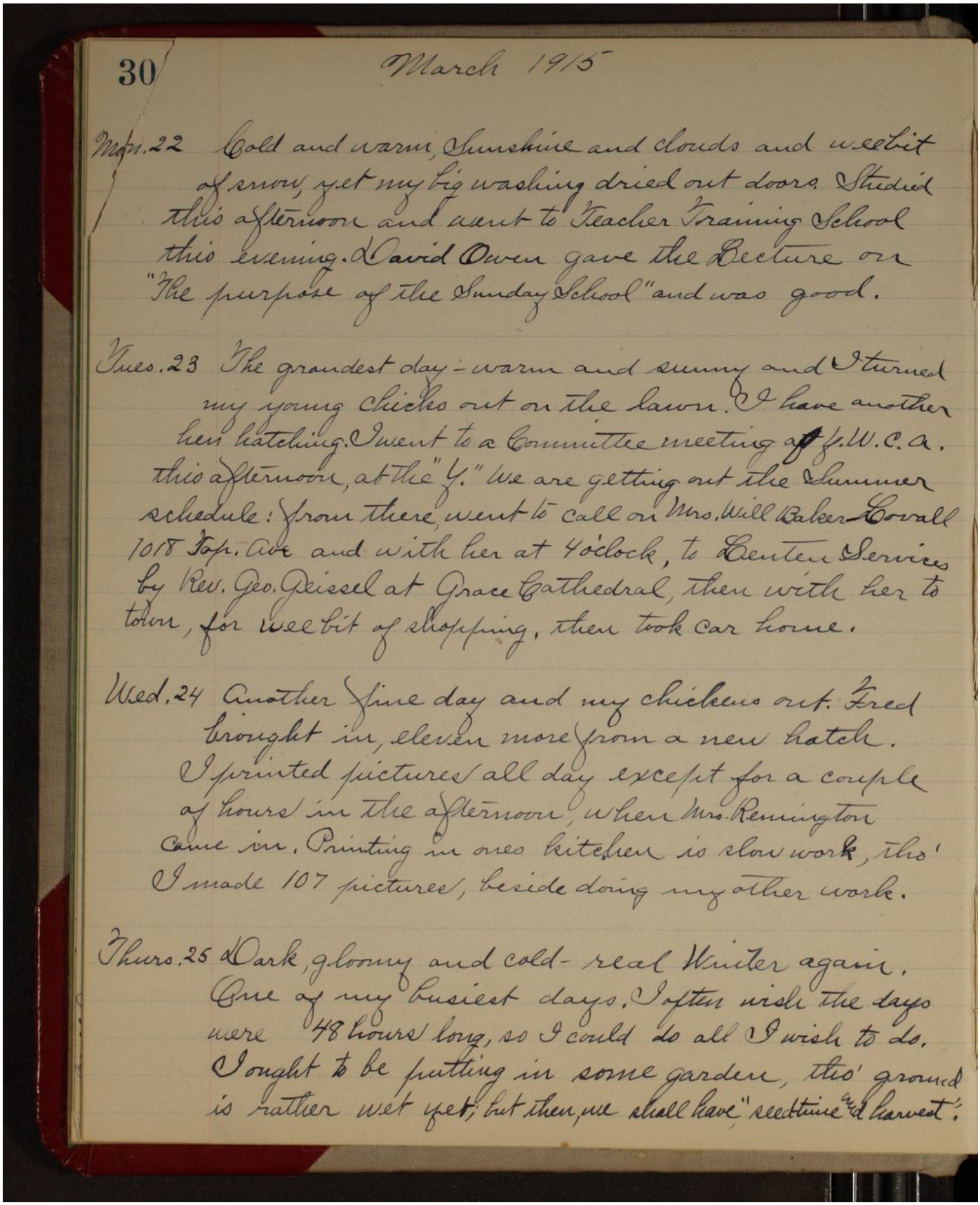
28 March 1915

Fri. 19 Cold and growing colder all day. Because of School, I gave my Class their St. Patrick Party tonight – and I worked hard all day, sweeping cleaning, baking, finishing my cards etc. And I got all done, and I commenced. I made about 50 small cakes which I called "Tipperary Cakes from Cork." I baked 50 fine graham biscuit which I made into Sandwiches with Pork tenderloin and served hot by re-heating; gave them pickles and potato chips also, and Pineapple ice and Cocoa. We had a jolly evening, this playing Ten games. Ronald McCord Dookie Brown, Lyman King Helen Rutledge, Warren Remington Almeda Hare, Merle Allton Marie Ferran, Fred Brackett Nannie Osborne, Robert Maxwell, Dorothy Reddick, Edwin Jones, Gladys Organ, Robert Symposon and Martha Lanier who has just returned from Florida, where she went a year ago, when we gave her a "St. Patrick" Farewell Party. Donald Fay, Melvern Pribble, Will Jackson, Moses Johnson, Harry Davis and he brought two friends, Pete Carswell and Otto Reinbach. I gave them St. Patrick "Cartoons" of themselves and stick pins of the American and Irish flags. All left 11 o'clock

Sat. 20 Up early "cleaning", after last nights Party. At 9 o'clock Harry Davis, Ronald McCord and Warren Remington came and here 'till I commenced dinner. After dinner these three came again, also Robert Maxwell, Robert Symposon, Donald Fay and Glen. Platt and all here until 4 o'clock.

I took pictures of all. They played the Piano, sang, and ate up all they could find in sight. (luckily I had hidden away enough for tomorrow) How true that 14 to 20 year old boys, are at the "Grub age". Robt. S. told me Fred Brackett 18, is engaged to Nanny Osborne I am sorry, but he is young, and can easily change his mind. Nannie is a good girl, but rather stiff or haughty - thinks she is a little too good for my boys and I would rather see Fred get some one who would "unbend" with my good fellows and be more of a "mixer". This morning the sun shone and the frost was flying - this afternoon, the sun shone and the snow flew - beautiful, blue sky, & Summer-time for a brief time, then the snow came down in regular blizzard fury; then stopped; but the ground is white tonight with a skim of snow and its cold, but could be worse.

Sun. 21 We took car to S.S. and Church as usual, and found the snow all gone, after Church - sun shining and cold. I only had 12 boys, but that was double the Barraca Class. Robert Maxwell a new boy, in Class this morning. Sec. of Missions, Bert Wilson of Kan. City, Preached this morning on Missions. This afternoon, 8 of my boys came out. Robert Maxwell, Robert Symposon, Don Fay, Harry Davis, Warren Remington, Ronald McCord, Edwin Jones, and Chas. Plath, and I took pictures



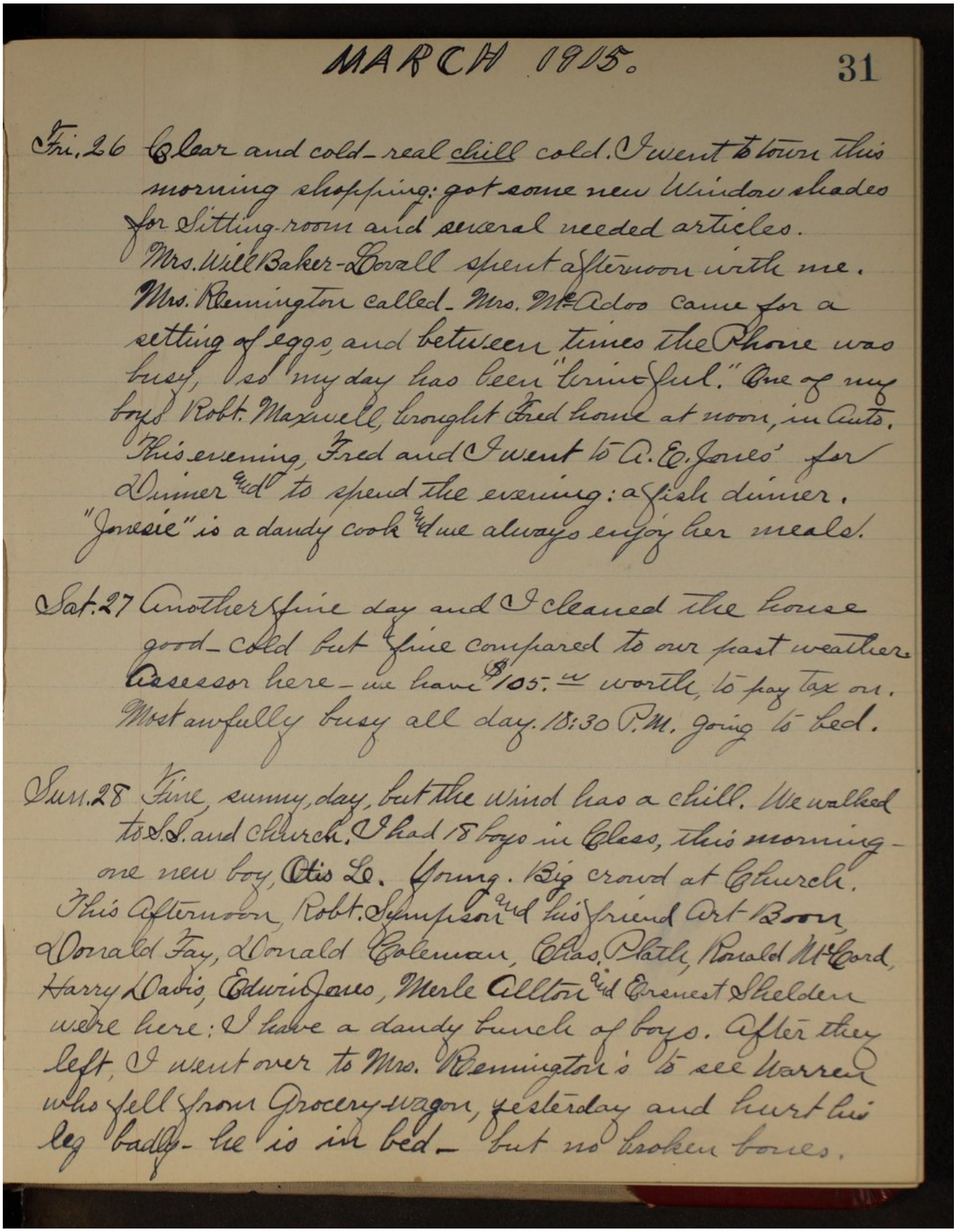
30 March 1915

Mon. 22 Cold and warm, Sunshine and clouds and wee bit of snow, yet my big washing dried out doors. Studied this afternoon and went to Teacher Training School this evening. David Owen gave the Lecture on "The purpose of the Sunday School" and was good.

Tues. 23 The grandest day - warm and sunny and I turned my young chicks out on the lawn. I have another hen hatching. I went to a Committee meeting of Y.W.C.A. this afternoon, at the "Y." We are getting out the Summer schedule: From there went to call on Mrs. Will Baker-Cowall 1018 Kan. Ave and with her at 4 o'clock, to Lenten Services by Rev. Geo. Geissel at Grace Cathedral, then with her to town, for wee bit of shopping, then took car home.

Wed. 24 Another fine day and my chickens out. Fred brought in, eleven more from a new hatch. I printed pictures all day except for a couple of hours in the afternoon, when Mrs. Remington came in. Printing in ones kitchen is slow work, tho' I made 107 pictures, beside doing my other work.

Thurs. 25 Dark, gloomy and cold - real Winter again. One of my busiest days. I often wish the days were 48 hours long, so I could do all I wish to do. I ought to be putting in some garden, tho' ground is rather wet yet; but then, we shall have "seedtime and harvest".

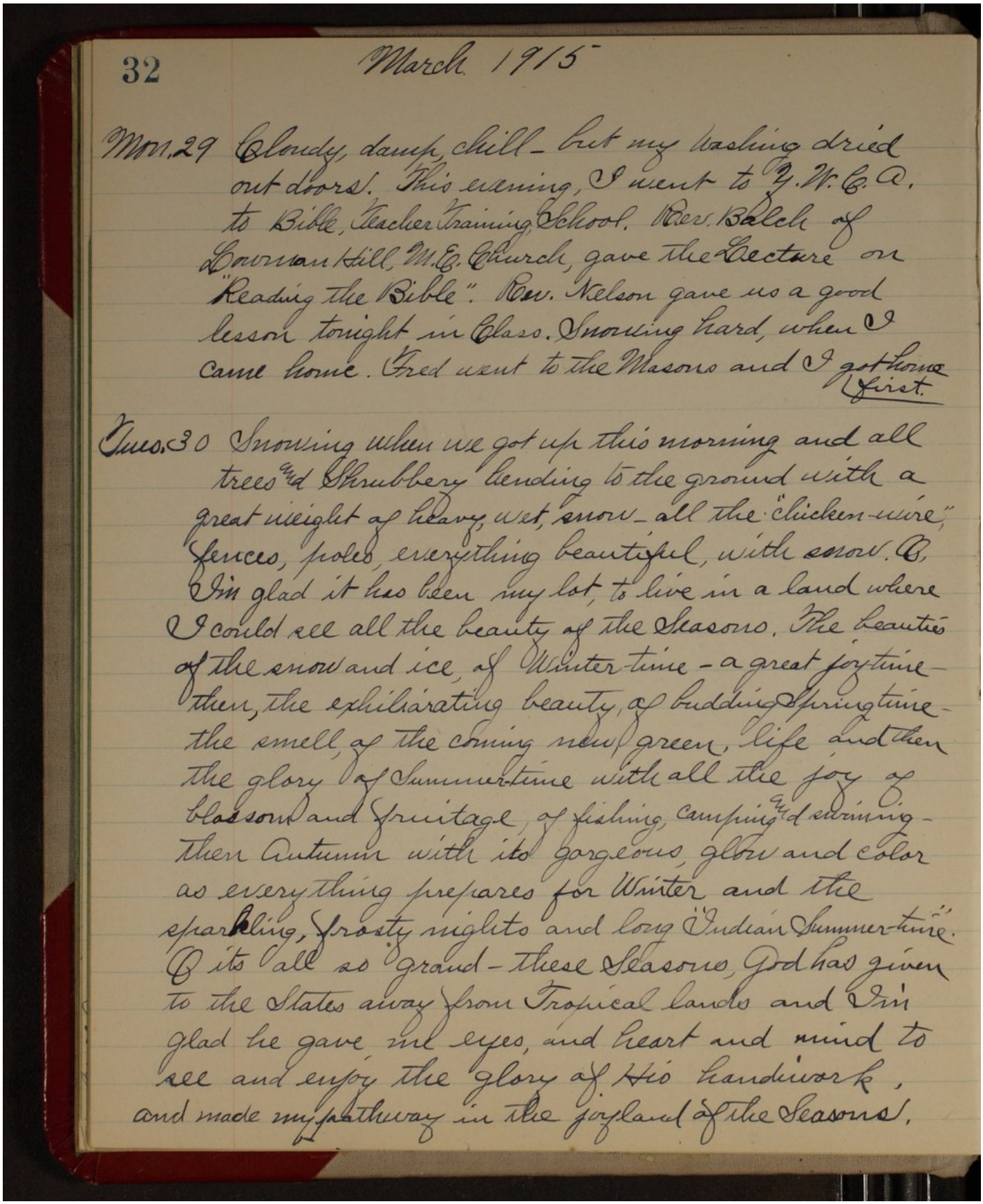


MARCH 1915. 31

Fri. 26 Clear and cold - real chill cold. I went to town this morning shopping: got some new Window shades for Sitting-room and several needed articles. Mrs. Will Baker-Duvall spent afternoon with me. Mrs. Remington called - Mrs. McAdoo came for a setting of eggs, and between times the Phone was busy, so my day has been "eventful." One of my boys Robt. Maxwell, brought Fred home at noon, in Auto. This evening, Fred and I went to A. E. Jones' for Dinner and to spend the evening: a fish dinner. "Jonesie" is a dandy cook and we always enjoy her meals.

Sat. 27 Another fine day and I cleaned the house good - cold but fine compared to our past weather. Assessor here - we have $105.00 worth, to pay tax on. Most awfully busy all day. 10:30 P.M. going to bed.

Sun. 28 Fine, sunny, day, but the wind has a chill. We walked to S.S. and Church. I had 15 boys in Class, this morning - one new boy, Otis Le. Young. Big crowd at Church. This afternoon, Robt. Sympson and his friend Art Boon, Donald Fay, Donald Coleman, Chas. Platt, Ronald McCord, Harry Davis, Edwin Jones, Merle Allton and Ernest Shelden were here: I have a dandy bunch of boys. After they left, I went over to Mrs. Remington's to see Warren who fell from Grocery-wagon, yesterday and hurt his leg badly - he is in bed - but no broken bones.



32 March 1915

Mon. 29 Cloudy, damp, chill - but my washing dried out doors. This evening, I went to Y. W. C. A. to Bible, Teacher Training School. Rev. Balch of Emerson Hill, M.E. Church, gave the Lecture on "Reading the Bible". Rev. Nelson gave us a good lesson tonight in Class. Snowing hard, when I came home. Fred went to the Masons and I got home first.

Tues. 30 Snowing when we got up this morning and all trees and Shrubbery bending to the ground with a great weight of heavy, wet, snow - all the "chicken-wire" fences, poles, everything beautiful, with snow. O, I'm glad it has been my lot, to live in a land where I could see all the beauty of the Seasons. The beauties of the snow and ice, of Winter-time - a great joy-time - then, the exhilarating beauty, of budding Springtime - the smell, of the coming new green, life and then the glory of Summer-time with all the joy of blossom and fruitage, of fishing, camping and swimming - then Autumn with its gorgeous glow and color as everything prepares for Winter and the sparkling, frosty nights and long "Indian Summer-time". O its all so grand - these Seasons, God has given to the States away from Tropical lands and I'm glad he gave me eyes, and heart and mind to see and enjoy the glory of His handiwork, and made my pathway in the joyland of the Seasons.

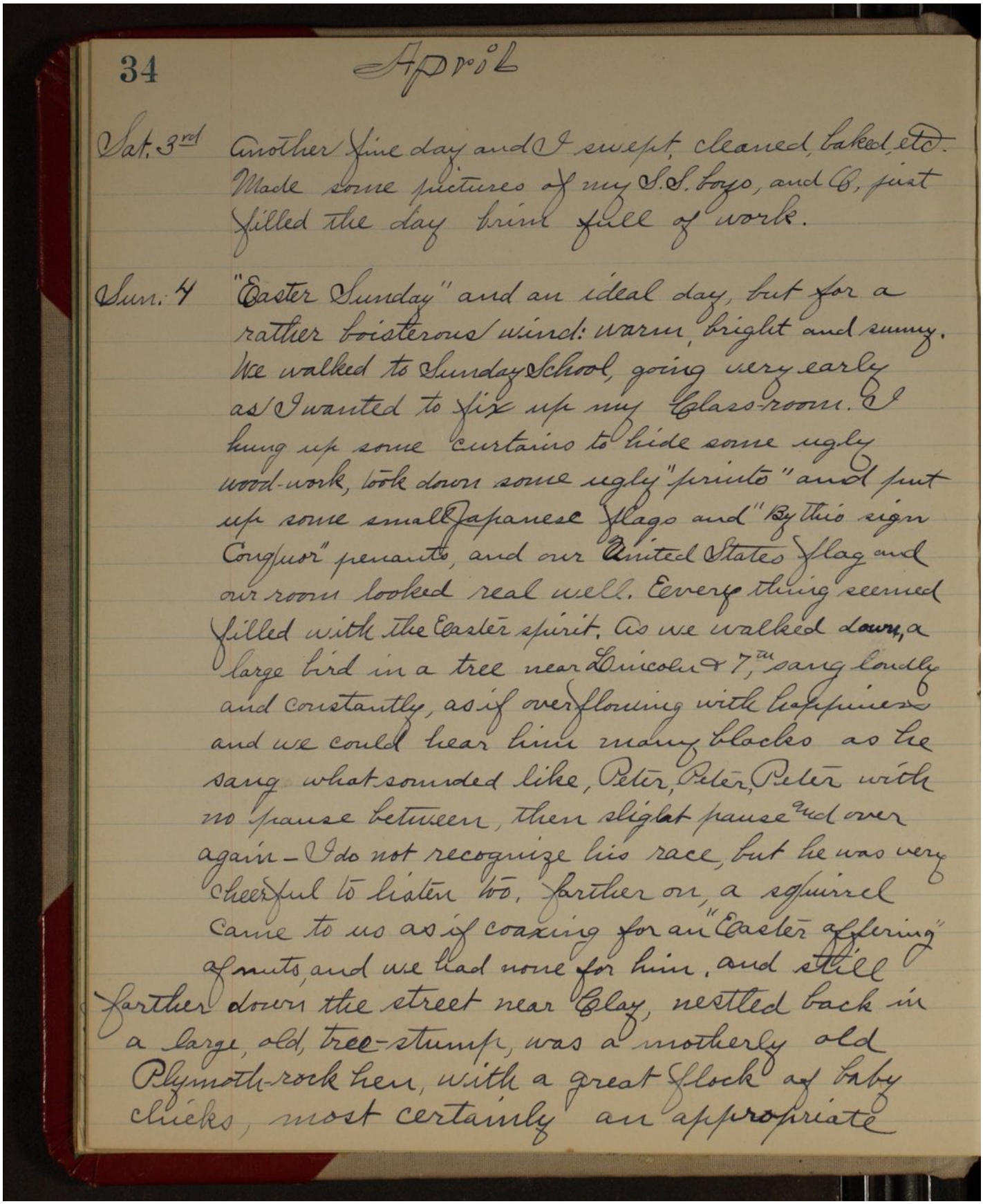
March and April. 1915. 33

Wed. 31 Today is beautiful, with every trace of Winter gone. I've been writing Easter-cards – one to my good father and one to Rev. J. H. Gavin, the dear, old, Pastor who Baptized me, thirty years ago, and to many other friends and put in a busy day.

"April Fool Day."

Thurs. 1st A most beautiful day, and I went to town Shopping this morning; this afternoon called on my neighbors first, the "new" Mrs. Abe McKee – a bride of a month – seems very pleasant: then on Mrs. John Dawson wife of our new Chief Justice, and a dear, sweet woman, then on her daughter Circea (Mrs. John Wood) to see their new baby boy, five weeks old, and he is a lovely baby, a great bouncing big one, that you would just like to "cuddle up" and squeeze: from there I went to see Cecile Godard-Kelley and her new baby girl, less than four weeks old, a very frail, wee baby with runing, open, sore on back of its head and must be "bottle-fed"; barely lives. and poor Mrs. Godard almost "gone" with Cancer of face: a most afflicted family. Another busy day this, but I don't often make Calls.

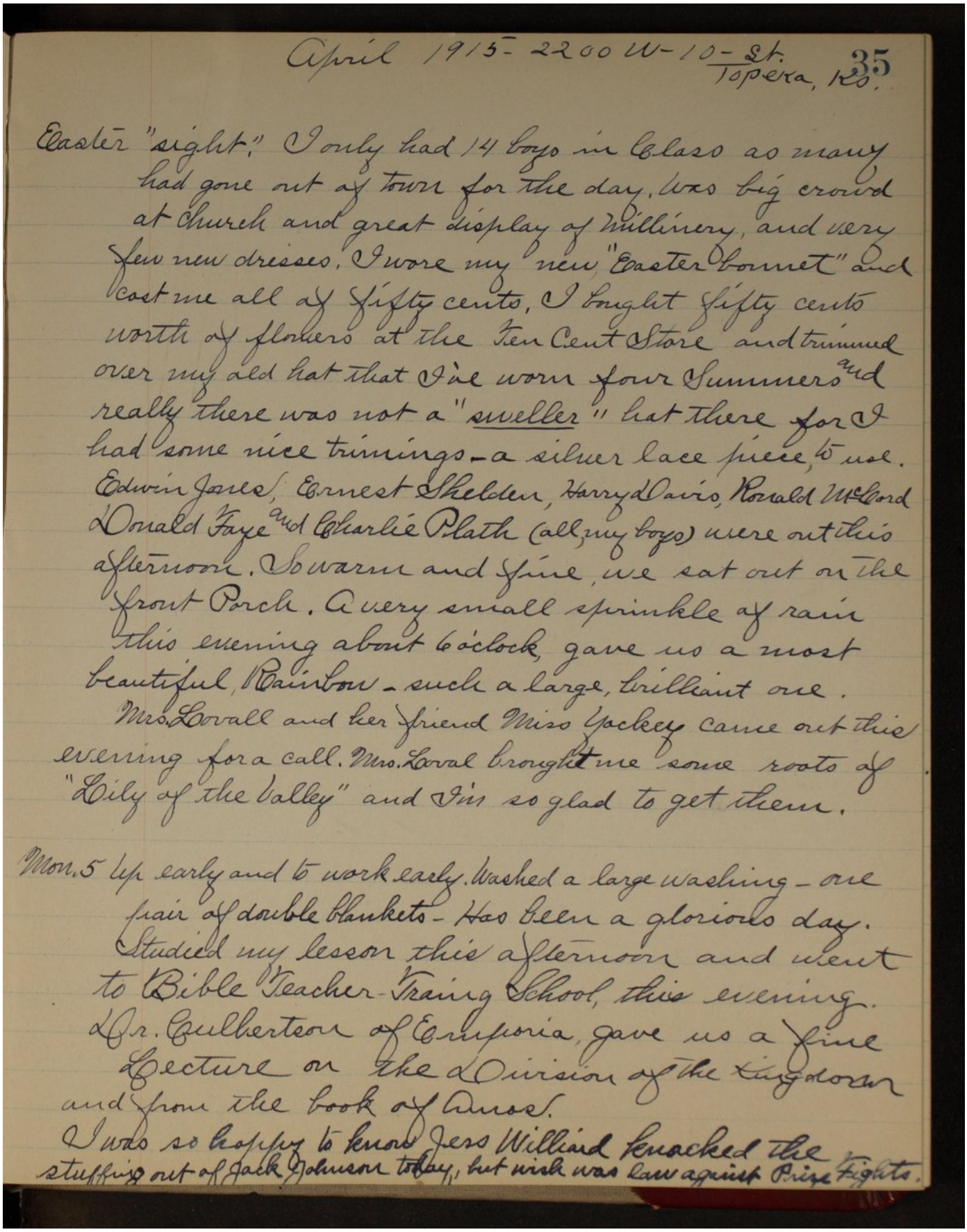
Fri. 2 Most awfully busy today, all day. We made a lot of garden this evening. Cooler but Spring certainly is here and everyone is happy, tho' I like cool weather best.



34 April

Sat. 3rd Another fine day and I swept, cleaned, baked, etc. Made some pictures of my S.S. boys, and C, just filled the day brim full of work.

Sun. 4 "Easter Sunday" and an ideal day, but for a rather boisterous wind: warm, bright and sunny. We walked to Sunday School, going very early as I wanted to fix up my Class-room. I hung up some curtains to hide some ugly wood-work, took down some ugly "prints" and put up some small Japanese flags and "By this sign Conquer" pennants, and our United States flag and our room looked real well. Everything seemed filled with the Easter spirit. As we walked down, a large bird in a tree near Lincoln & 7th sang loudly and constantly, as if overflowing with happiness and we could hear him many blocks as he sang what sounded like, Peter, Peter, Peter with no pause between, then slight pause and over again - I do not recognize his race, but he was very cheerful to listen to. Farther on, a squirrel came to us as if coaxing for an "Easter offering" of nuts, and we had none for him, and still farther down the street near Clay, nestled back in a large, old, tree-stump, was a motherly old Plymouth-rock hen, with a great flock of baby chicks, most certainly an appropriate



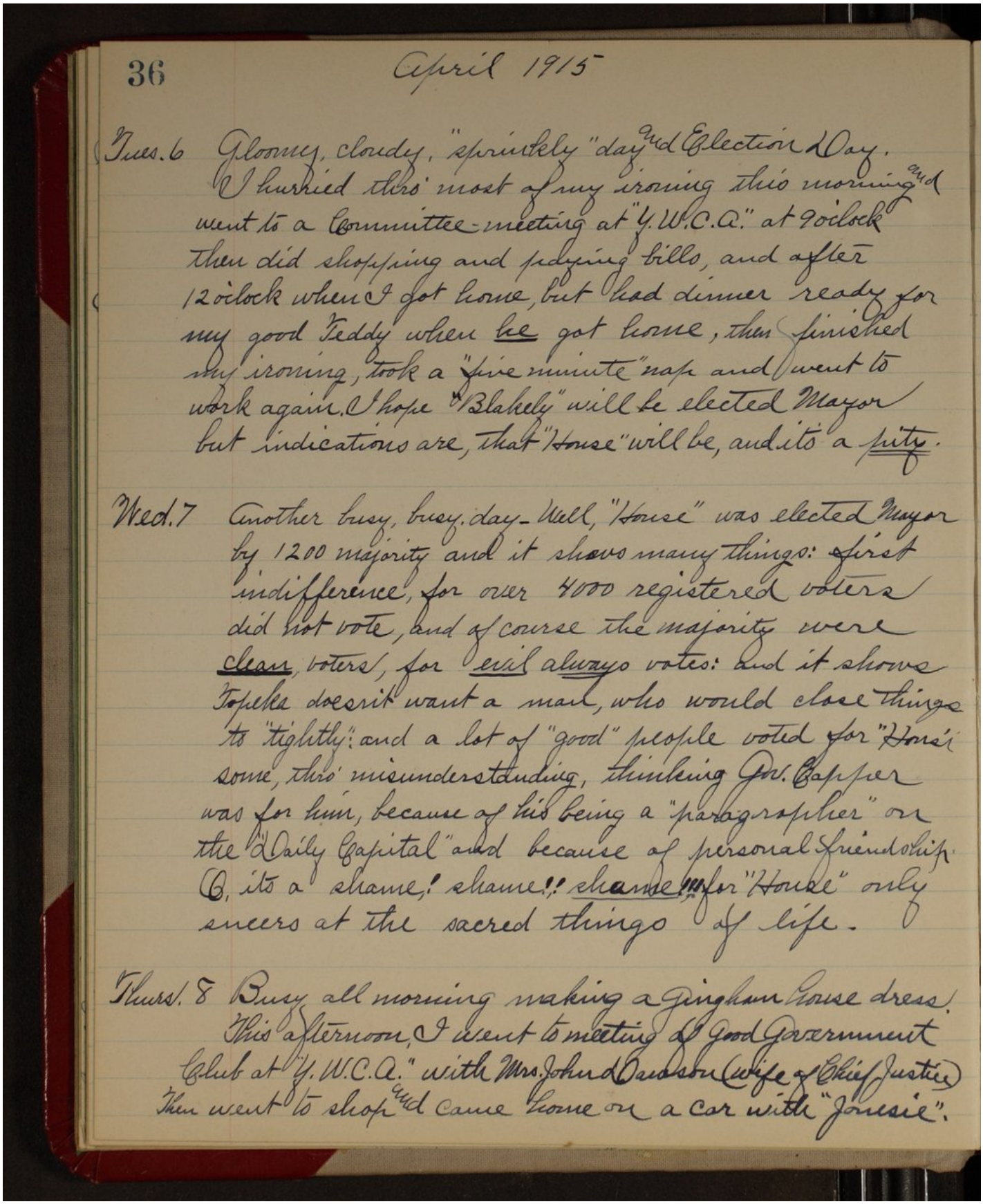
April 1915 - 2200 W-10-St. Topeka, Kas. 35

Easter "sight." I only had 14 boys in Class as many had gone out of town for the day. Was big crowd at Church and great display of Millinery, and very few new dresses. I wore my "new Easter bonnet" and cost me all of fifty cents. I bought fifty cents worth of flowers at the Ten Cent Store and trimmed over my old hat that I've worn four Summers and really there was not a "sweller" hat there for I had some nice trimings - a silver lace piece, to use. Edwin Jones, Ernest Shelden, Harry Davis, Ronald McLord Donald Faye and Charlie Plath (all my boys) were out this afternoon. So warm and fine, we sat out on the front Porch. A very small sprinkle of rain this evening about 6 o'clock, gave us a most beautiful, Rainbow - such a large, brilliant one.

Mrs. Lovall and her friend Miss Yackey came out this evening for a call. Mrs. Loval brought me some roots of "Lily of the Valley" and I'm so glad to get them.

Mon. 5 Up early and to work early. Washed a large washing - one pair of double blankets - Has been a glorious day. Studied my lesson this afternoon and went to Bible Teacher-Traing School this evening. Dr. Culbertson of Emporia, gave us a fine Lecture on the Division of the Kingdoms and from the book of Amos.

I was so happy to know Jess Willard knocked the stuffing out of Jack Johnson today, but wish was law against Prize fights.

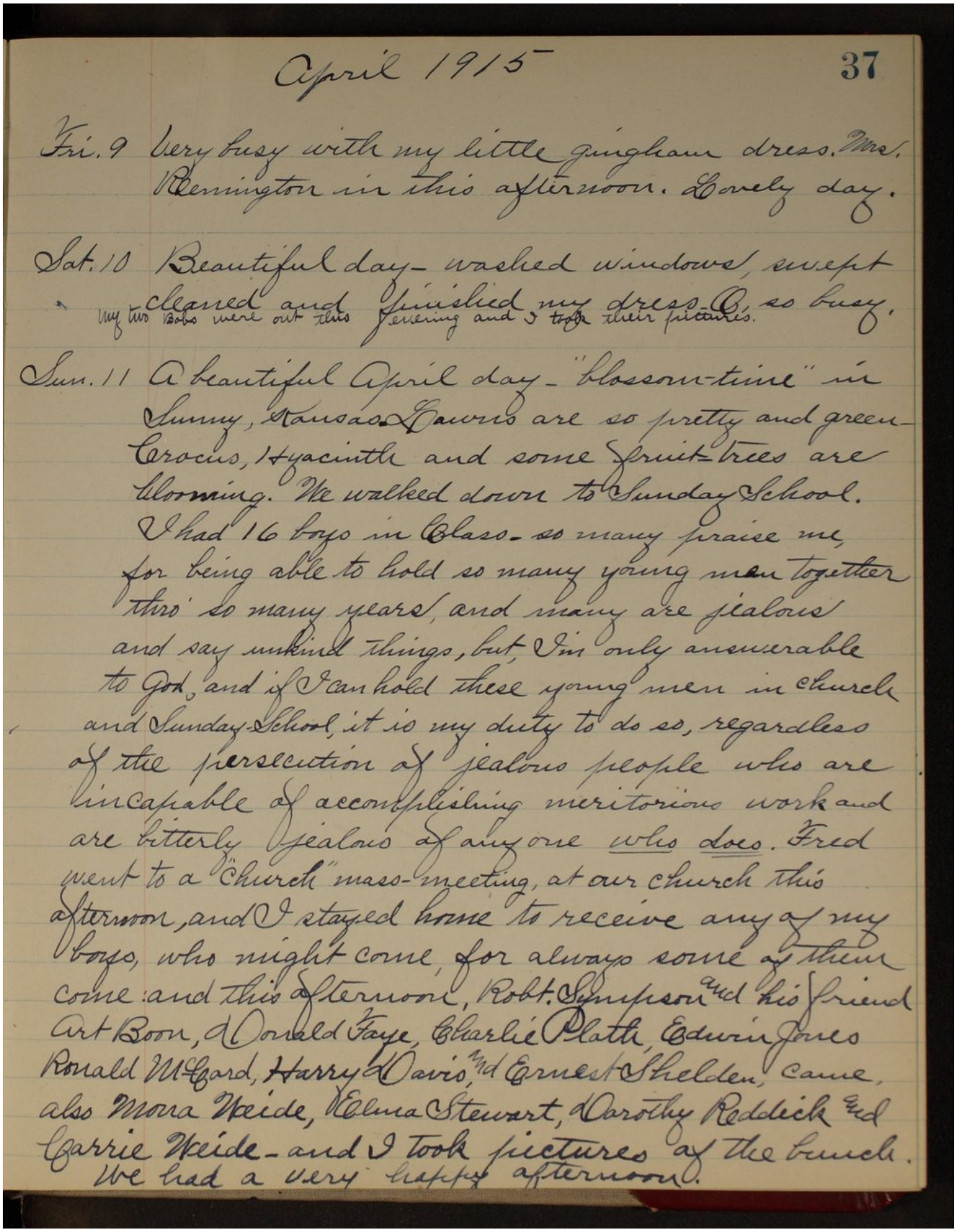


36 April 1915

Tues. 6 Gloomy, cloudy, "sprinkly" day and Election Day. I hurried thro' most of my ironing this morning and went to a Committee-meeting at "Y.W.C.A." at 9 o'clock then did shopping and paying bills, and after 12 o'clock when I got home, but had dinner ready for my good Teddy when he got home, then finished my ironing, took a "five minute" nap and went to work again. I hope "Blakely" will be elected Mayor but indications are, that "House" will be, and it's a pity.

Wed. 7 Another busy, busy day. Well, "House" was elected Mayor by 1200 majority and it shows many things: first indifference, for over 4000 registered voters did not vote, and of course the majority were clean voters, for evil always votes: and it shows Topeka doesn't want a man, who would close things to "tightly": and a lot of "good" people voted for "Hous" some, thro' misunderstanding, thinking Gov. Capper was for him, because of his being a "paragrapher" on the "Daily Capital" and because of personal friendship. O, it's a shame! shame!! shame!!! for "House" only sneers at the sacred things of life.

Thurs. 8 Busy all morning making a gingham House dress. This afternoon, I went to meeting of Good Government Club at "Y.W.C.A." with Mrs. John Dawson (wife of Chief Justice) Then went to shop and came home on a car with "Jonesie".

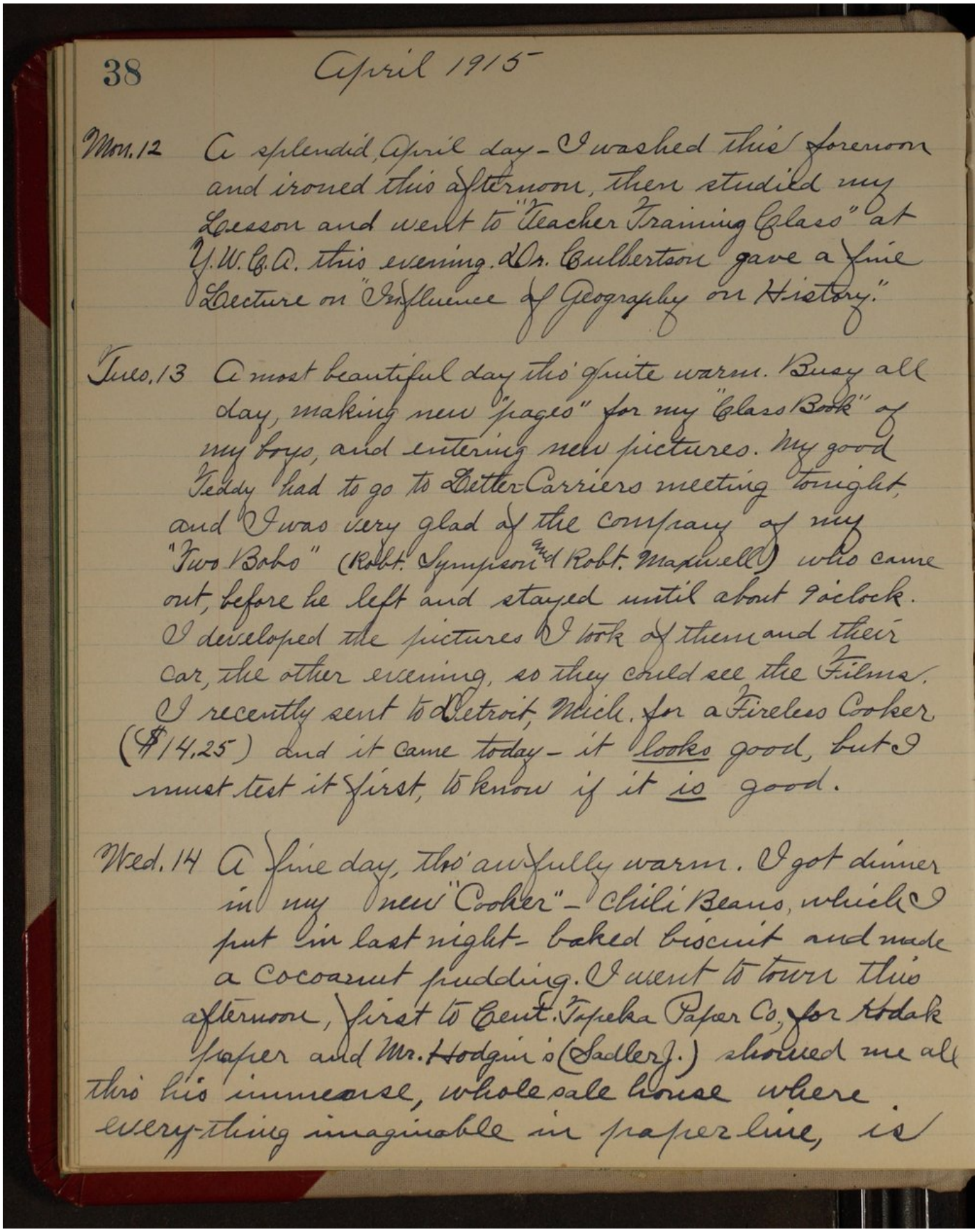


April 1915 — 37

Fri. 9 very busy with my little gingham dress. Mrs. Pennington in this afternoon. Lovely day.

Sat. 10 Beautiful day — washed windows, swept cleaned and finished my dress. So busy. My two Bobs were out this evening and I took their pictures.

Sun. 11 A beautiful April day — "blossom-time" in Sunny, Kansas. Lawns are so pretty and green — Crocus, Hyacinth and some fruit-trees are blooming. We walked down to Sunday School. I had 16 boys in Class — so many praise me for being able to hold so many young men together this so many years, and many are jealous and say unkind things, but I'm only answerable to God, and if I can hold these young men in Church and Sunday-School, it is my duty to do so, regardless of the persecution of jealous people who are incapable of accomplishing meritorious work and are bitterly jealous of anyone who does. Fred went to a "Church" mass-meeting, at our Church this afternoon, and I stayed home to receive any of my boys, who might come, for always some of them come: and this afternoon, Robt. Simpson and his friend Art Boon, & Donald Faye, Charlie Plath, Edwin Jones Ronald McCord, Harry & Davis, and Ernest Shelden, came, also Mona Weide, Elma Stewart, Dorothy Reddick and Carrie Weide — and I took pictures of the bunch. We had a very happy afternoon.

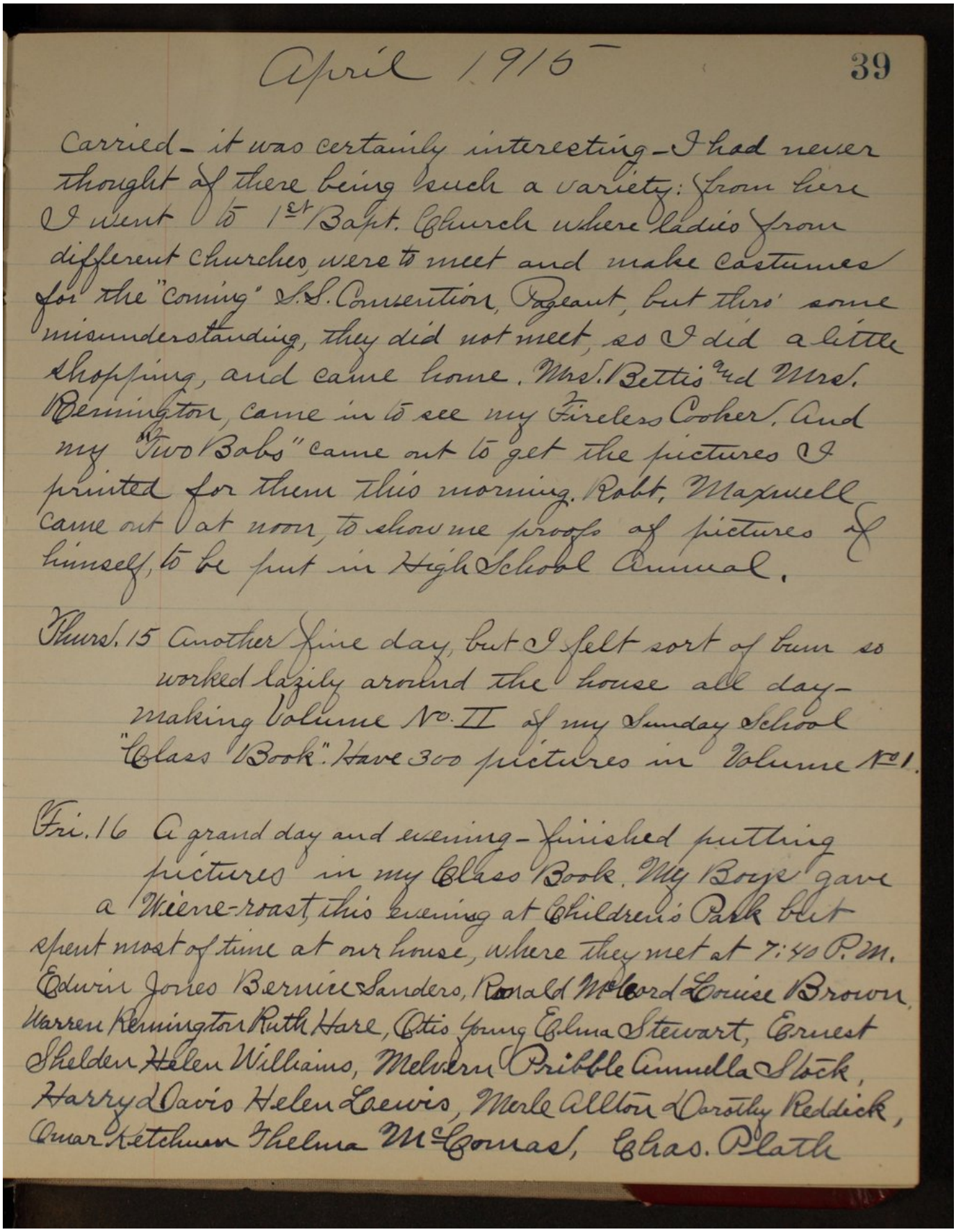


38 April 1915

Mon. 12 A splendid April day - I washed this forenoon and ironed this afternoon, then studied my Lesson and went to "Teacher Training Class" at Y.W.C.A. this evening. Dr. Culbertson gave a fine Lecture on "Influence of Geography on History."

Tues. 13 A most beautiful day tho' quite warm. Busy all day, making new "pages" for my "Class Book" of my boys, and entering new pictures. My good Teddy had to go to Letter-Carriers meeting tonight, and I was very glad of the company of my "Two Bobs" (Robt. Sympson and Robt. Maxwell) who came out, before he left and stayed until about 9 o'clock. I developed the pictures I took of them and their car, the other evening, so they could see the Films. I recently sent to Detroit, Mich. for a Fireless Cooker ($14.25) and it came today - it looks good, but I must test it first, to know if it is good.

Wed. 14 A fine day, tho' awfully warm. I got dinner in my new "Cooker" - Chili Beans, which I put in last night - baked biscuit and made a Cocoanut pudding. I went to town this afternoon, first to Cent. Topeka Paper Co. for Kodak paper and Mr. Hodgin's (Sadler J.) showed me all this his immense, wholesale house where every-thing imaginable in paper line, is



April 1915 39

Carried - it was certainly interesting - I had never thought of there being such a variety: From here I went to 1st Bapt. Church where ladies from different churches were to meet and make costumes for the "coming" S.S. Convention Pageant, but thro' some misunderstanding, they did not meet, so I did a little shopping, and came home. Mrs. Bettis and Mrs. Bennington came in to see my Fireless Cooker. And my "Two Babs" came out to get the pictures I printed for them this morning. Robt. Maxwell came out at noon, to show me proofs of pictures of himself, to be put in High School Annual.

Thurs. 15 Another fine day, but I felt sort of bum so worked lazily around the house all day - making Volume No. II of my Sunday School "Class Book". Have 300 pictures in Volume No. 1.

Fri. 16 A grand day and evening - finished putting pictures in my Class Book. My Boys gave a Wiene-roast this evening at Children's Park but spent most of time at our house, where they met at 7:40 P.M. Edwin Jones Bernice Sanders, Ronald McCord Louise Brown, Warren Kennington Ruth Hare, Otis Young Edna Stewart, Ernest Shelden Helen Williams, Melvern Pribble Ammella Stock, Harry Davis Helen Lewis, Merle Allton Dorothy Reddick, Omar Ketchum Thelma McComas, Chas. Plath

Mona Wiede, Donald Fay and my "two Bobs" (Symposon and Maxwell) Teddy and I went with them to the Park, where they roasted Wienies and Marsh-mallows - then came back to our house and had a good time until after eleven o'clock. A happy, jolly, noisy bunch of young folkes, with all of life before them - & but I love and enjoy them, tho' at times they almost drive me to distraction.

Sat. 17 A most beautiful day and a busy one. Cooked a lovely roast in my Cooker today. Mrs. Will Baker-Lovell, came out about noon and I had her stay to dinner. I took some pictures of Mrs. Bettis' neice and nephews, this afternoon.

Sun. 18 Another splendid day - we walked down to S.S. and Church: only had 12 boys in Class, the day being so fine, it lured many to the Country.. After dinner, Harry Davis and Warren Bennington came and I took their pictures on their wheels - then Don Fay, Edwin Jones, Charlie Plath, and Robt. Symposon came and we took some more pictures.

Mon. 19 A grand day. I washed, ironed, scrubbed and got my lessons - this evening I went to Y.W.C.A. to Teacher Training Class and Dr. Culbertson gave his usual good Lecture.

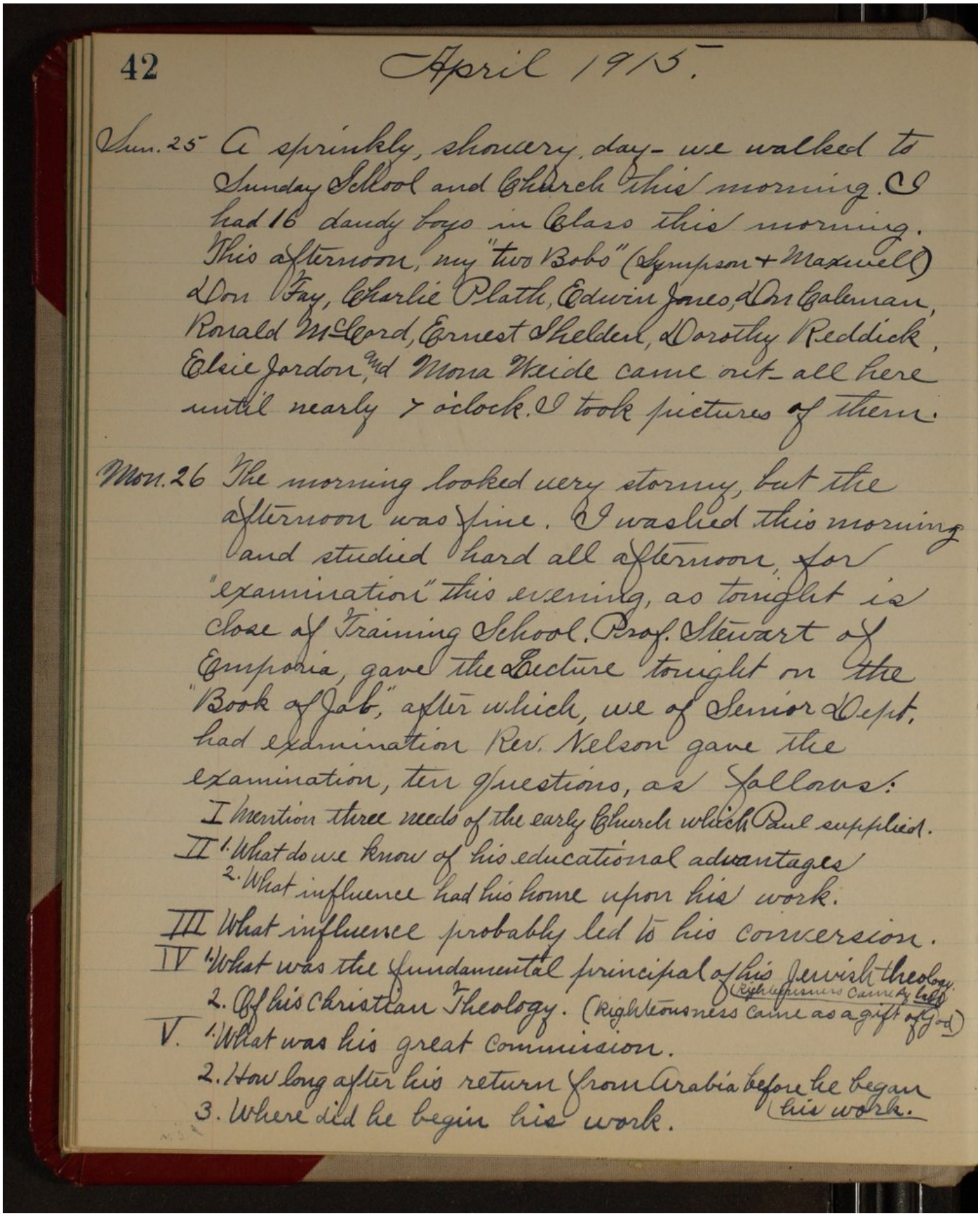
Tues. 20 "Cool and warm, sunny and "sprinkly," just a real April day, in Kansas. I made garden all forenoon and got all our garden in. At Mrs. Remington's awhile this afternoon. Charlie Plath (one of my boys) made a short call borrowed my, "I love a Lassie".

Wed. 21 A very busy day- went to town shopping too. I never seem to get my work done, any more.

Thurs. 22 Another fine day and very busy. Mora Waide came out this afternoon to bring Fred's sweater home. To the church for Pageant practice this evening.

Fri. 23 Showery day- rained hard for awhile this afternoon I went to the Church immediately after dinner to help make costumes for the S. S. Pageant. This evening Fred and I, went to a Concert at the High School, given in the pretty, new Assembly room: we enjoyed every number. Some of my Sunday School boys were in the affair.

Sat. 24 A most awfully busy day. My good, Teddy's 49th Birthday and I killed and fried him our first fried chicken of the season - made him a big fat Lemon pie and a "four story" pink and white, Birthday cake and got him up a dandy dinner.



42 April 1915.

Sun. 25 A sprinkly, showery day - we walked to Sunday School and Church this morning. I had 16 dandy boys in Class this morning. This afternoon, my "two Bobs" (Simpson + Maxwell) Don Fay, Charlie Plath, Edwin Jones, Doc Coleman, Ronald McCord, Ernest Shelden, Dorothy Reddick, Elsie Jardon, and Mona Weide came out - all here until nearly 7 o'clock. I took pictures of them.

Mon. 26 The morning looked very stormy, but the afternoon was fine. I washed this morning and studied hard all afternoon, for "examination" this evening, as tonight is close of Training School. Prof. Stewart of Emporia, gave the Lecture tonight on the "Book of Job," after which, we of Senior Dept. had examination Rev. Nelson gave the examination, ten questions, as follows:

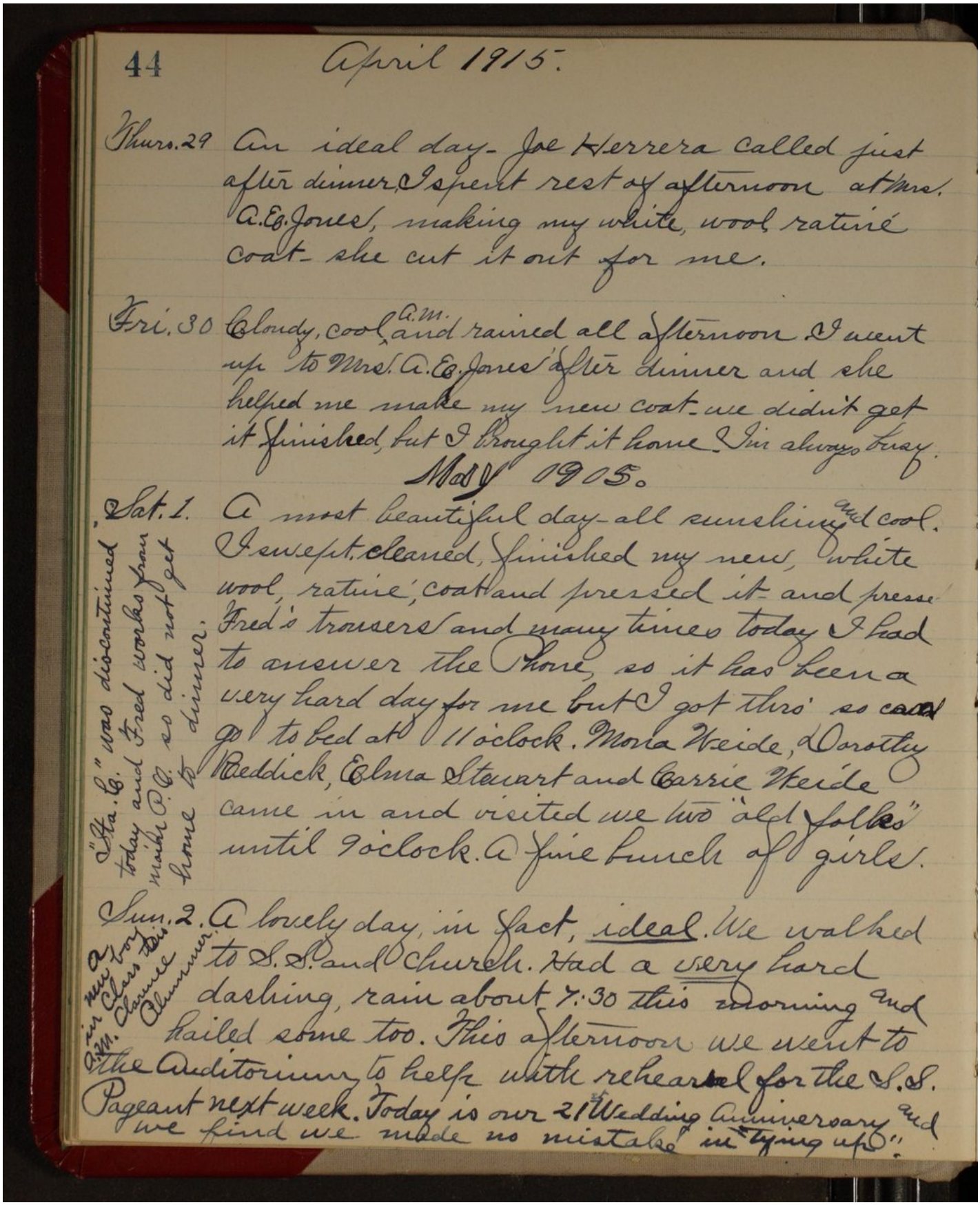
I Mention three needs of the early Church which Paul supplied.
II 1. What do we know of his educational advantages
2. What influence had his home upon his work.
III What influence probably led to his conversion.
IV 1. What was the fundamental principal of his Jewish theology (Righteousness came by Law)
2. Of his Christian Theology. (Righteousness came as a gift of God)
V. 1. What was his great Commission.
2. How long after his return from Arabia before he began (his work.
3. Where did he begin his work.

VI 1. How many Missionary Journeys did he make.
2. What was his method of procedure upon entering a City.
VII Tell what you can of the form and style of his writings.
VIII What did we learn about the congregation and worship in a church founded by him.
IX 1. What questions were involved in his controversy with the Jewish Christians.
2. Did the findings of the council end his troubles on these questions.
3. In what Epistle did he make his great defense.
X. 1. How and why did Paul go to Rome.
2. His imprisonment has been spoken of as Providential — Why?

And I know I answered enough of the questions correctly, to pass the examination successfully. Today is my 48th Birthday and I feel as young as I did at 20, but with a different look at life, and some tastes have changed.

Tues. 27 A lovely April day, tho' it got pretty warm. I went to town shopping this morning and finished a Pageant costume this afternoon. Chas. Plath, came out this afternoon; borrowed my "Tipperary" song.

Wed. 28 Awfully hot day — The door-bell and telephone kept me on a trot all day. Went to the Church this evening for Pageant re-hearsal — rained — got wet some. Mrs. Eoball called this eve. and Robt. Maxwell in afternoon.



44 April 1915.

Thurs. 29 An ideal day. Joe Herrera called just after dinner. I spent rest of afternoon at Mrs. A. E. Jones, making my white, wool, ratiné coat. She cut it out for me.

Fri. 30 Cloudy, cool, A.M. and rained all afternoon. I went up to Mrs. A. E. Jones' after dinner and she helped me make my new coat. We didn't get it finished, but I brought it home. I'm always busy.

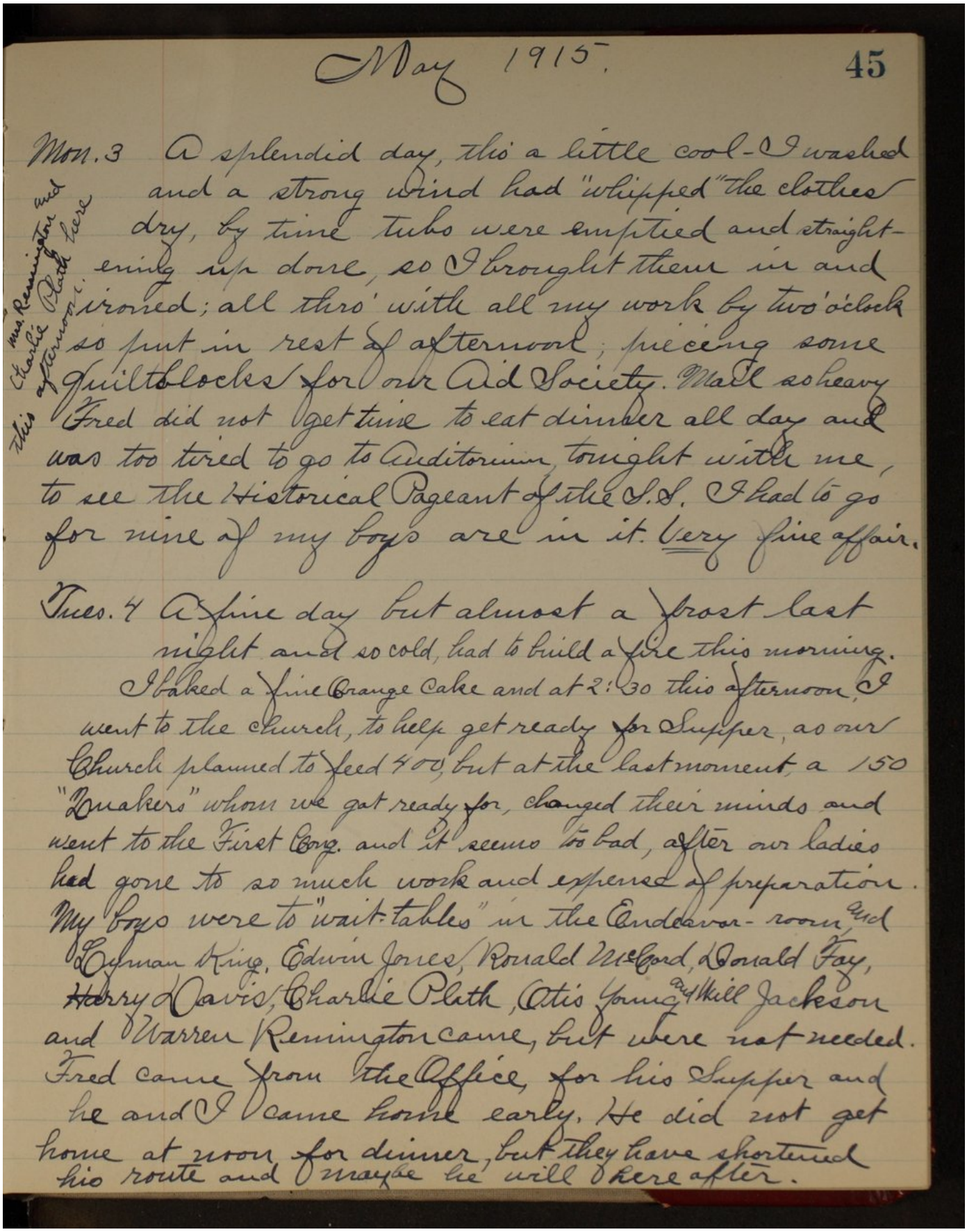
May 1915.

Sat. 1. A most beautiful day - all sunshine and cool. I swept, cleaned, finished my new, white wool, ratiné, coat and pressed it and pressed Fred's trousers and many times today I had to answer the Phone, so it has been a very hard day for me but I got thro' so could go to bed at 11 o'clock. Nora Weide, Dorothy Reddick, Elma Stewart and Carrie Weide came in and visited we two "old folkes" until 9 o'clock. A fine lunch off girls.

"Ha. G." was discontinued today and Fred works from home at dinner. with P.O. so did not get

Sun. 2. A lovely day, in fact, ideal. We walked to S. S. and Church. Had a very hard darling, rain about 7:30 this morning and hailed some too. This afternoon we went to the Auditorium to help with rehearsal for the S. S. Pageant next week. Today is our 21st Wedding Anniversary and we find we made no mistake in tying up".

A new boy in my Class this A.M. Cleaned Chimney.

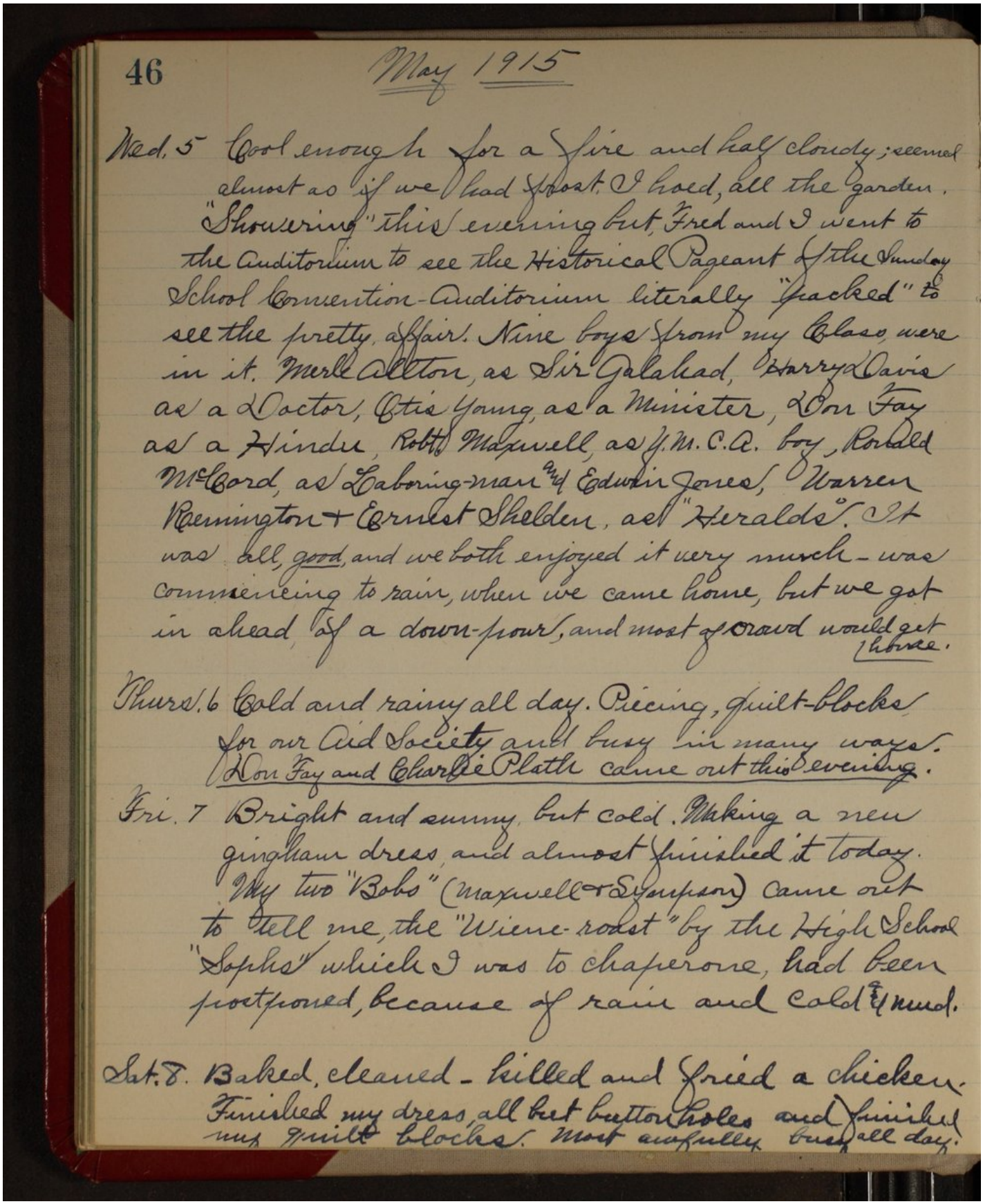


May 1915. 45

Mon. 3 A splendid day, tho a little cool - I washed and a strong wind had "whipped" the clothes dry, by time tubs were emptied and straightening up done, so I brought them in and ironed; all thro' with all my work by two o'clock so put in rest of afternoon; piecing some quilt blocks for our Aid Society. Mail so heavy Fred did not get time to eat dinner all day and was too tired to go to Auditorium tonight with me, to see the Historical Pageant of the S.S. I had to go for nine of my boys are in it. Very fine affair.

Mrs. Remington and Charlie Plath here this afternoon.

Tues. 4 A fine day but almost a frost last night and so cold, had to build a fire this morning. I baked a fine Orange Cake and at 2:30 this afternoon, I went to the Church, to help get ready for Supper, as our Church planned to feed 400, but at the last moment, a 150 "Quakers" whom we got ready for, changed their minds and went to the First Cong. and it seems too bad, after our ladies had gone to so much work and expense of preparation. My boys were to "wait-tables" in the Endeavor-room, and Lyman King, Edwin Jones, Ronald McCord, Donald Fay, Harry Davis, Charlie Plath, Otis Young and Will Jackson and Warren Remington came, but were not needed. Fred came from the Office, for his Supper and he and I came home early. He did not get home at noon for dinner, but they have shortened his route and maybe he will here after.



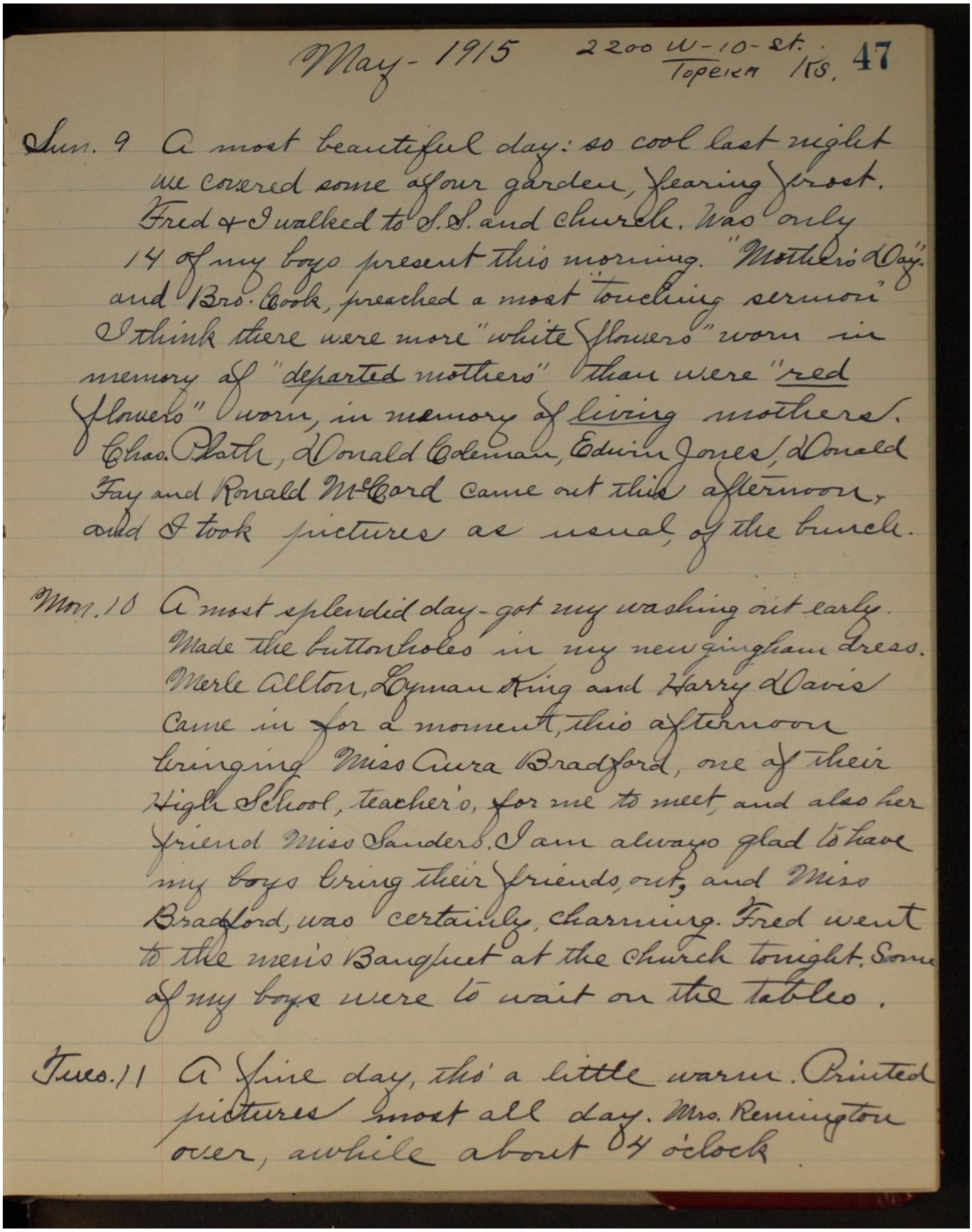
46 May 1915

Wed. 5 Cool enough for a fire and half cloudy; seemed almost as if we had frost. I hoed all the garden. "Showering" this evening but Fred and I went to the Auditorium to see the Historical Pageant of the Sunday School Convention - Auditorium literally "packed" to see the pretty affair. Nine boys from my Class were in it. Merle Allton as Sir Galahad, Harry Davis as a Doctor, Otis Young as a Minister, Don Fay as a Hindu, Robt Maxwell as Y.M.C.A. boy, Ronald McCord as Laboring-man and Edwin Jones, Warren Pennington + Ernest Shelden as "Heralds". It was all good, and we both enjoyed it very much - was commencing to rain, when we came home, but we got in ahead of a down-pour, and most of road would get (horse).

Thurs. 6 Cold and rainy all day. Piecing, quilt-blocks for our Aid Society and busy in many ways. Don Fay and Charlie Plath came out this evening.

Fri. 7 Bright and sunny, but cold. Making a new gingham dress, and almost finished it today. My two "Bobs" (Maxwell & Simpson) came out to tell me, the "Wiene-roast" by the High School "Sophs" which I was to chaperone, had been postponed, because of rain and cold & mud.

Sat. 8. Baked, cleaned - killed and fried a chicken. Finished my dress, all but button holes and finished my quilt blocks. Most awfully busy all day.

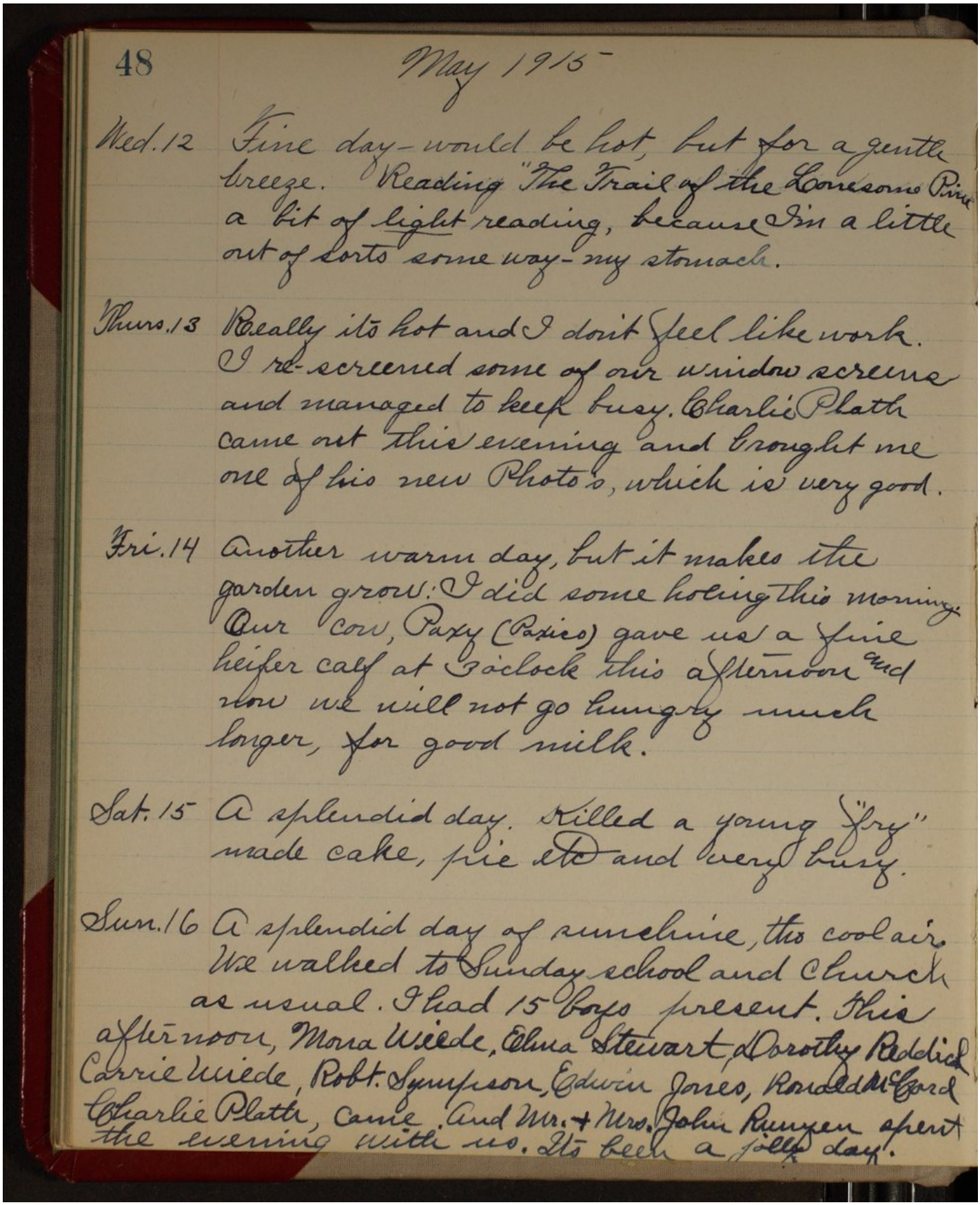


May - 1915 2200 W-10-St. Topeka Kans. 47

Sun. 9 A most beautiful day: so cool last night we covered some of our garden, fearing frost. Fred & I walked to S.S. and church. Was only 14 of my boys present this morning. "Mother's Day". and Bro. Cook, preached a most "touching sermon" I think there were more "white flowers" worn in memory of "departed mothers" than were "red flowers" worn, in memory of living mothers. Chas. Plath, Donald Coleman, Edwin Jones, Donald Fay and Ronald McCord came out this afternoon, and I took pictures as usual, of the bunch.

Mon. 10 A most splendid day - got my washing out early. Made the buttonholes in my new gingham dress. Merle Allton, Eyman King and Harry Davis came in for a moment, this afternoon bringing Miss Aura Bradford, one of their High School, teacher's, for me to meet, and also her friend Miss Sanders. I am always glad to have my boys bring their friends, out, and Miss Bradford, was certainly, charming. Fred went to the men's Banquet at the Church tonight. Some of my boys were to wait on the tables.

Tues. 11 A fine day, tho' a little warm. Printed pictures most all day. Mrs. Remington over, awhile about 4 o'clock



48 May 1915

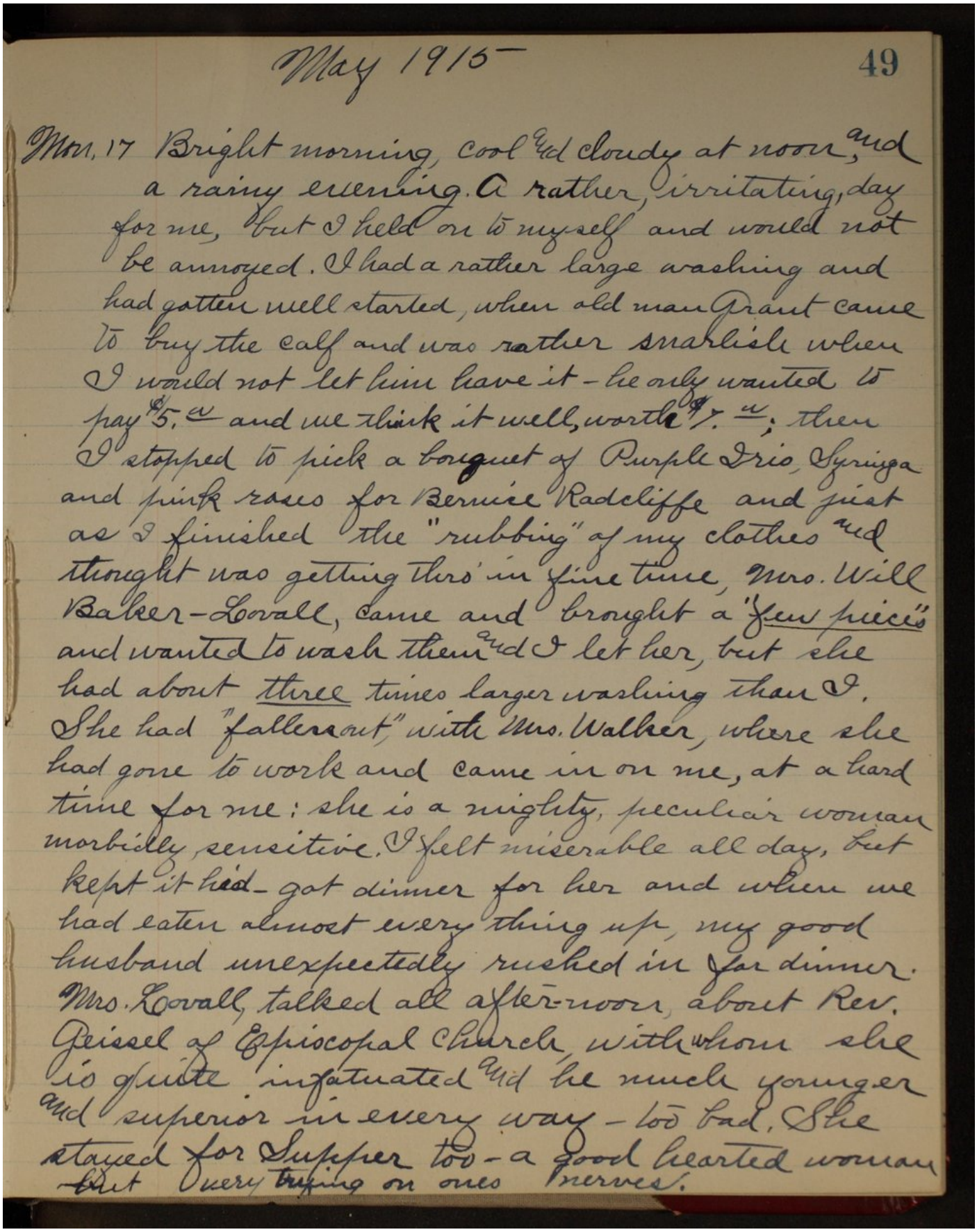
Wed. 12 Fine day - would be hot, but for a gentle breeze. Reading "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" a bit of light reading, because I'm a little out of sorts some way - my stomach.

Thurs. 13 Really it's hot and I don't feel like work. I re-screened some of our window screens and managed to keep busy. Charlie Plath came out this evening and brought me one of his new Photo's, which is very good.

Fri. 14 Another warm day, but it makes the garden grow. I did some hoeing this morning. Our cow, Paxy (Paxie) gave us a fine heifer calf at 3 o'clock this afternoon and now we will not go hungry much longer, for good milk.

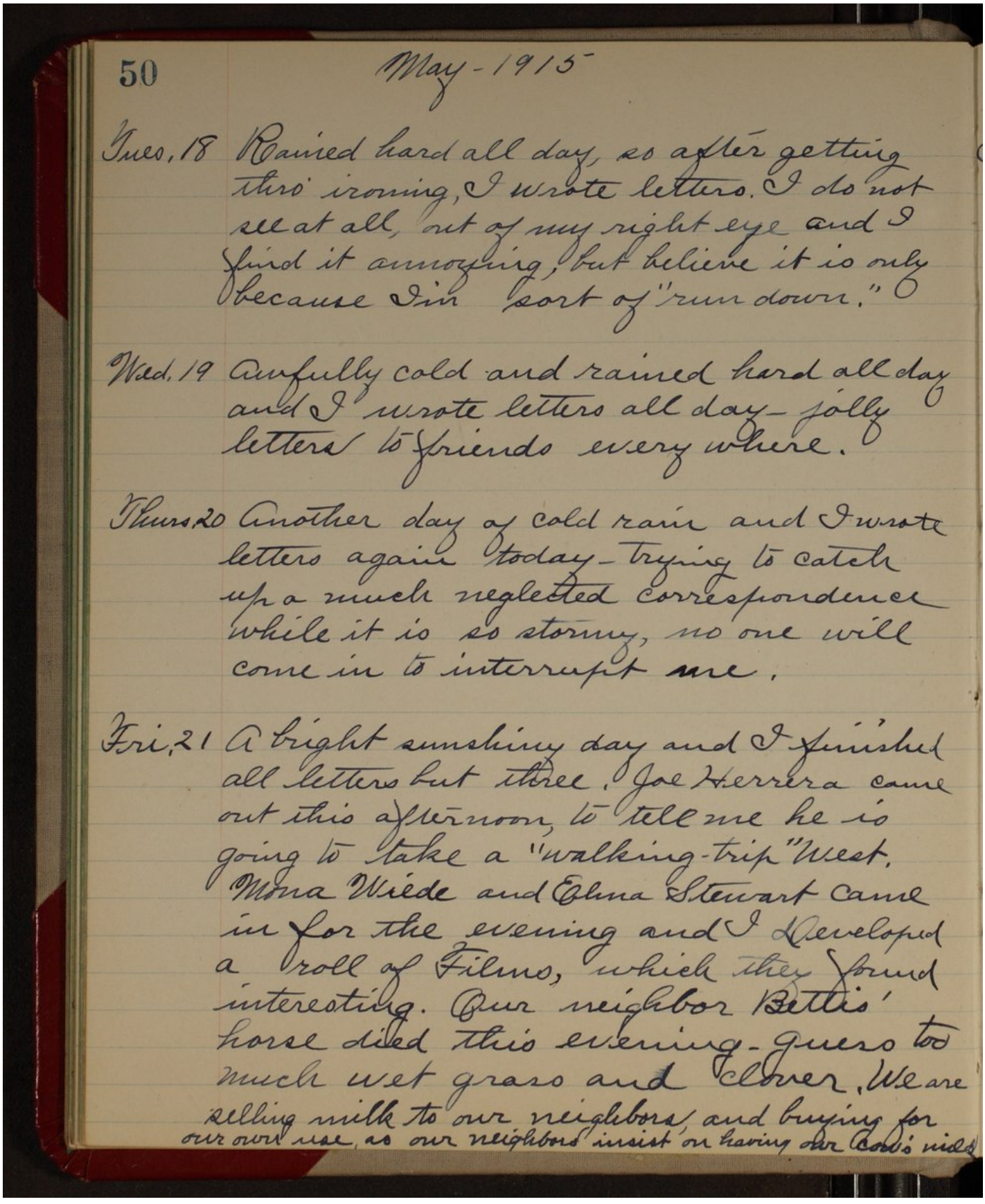
Sat. 15 A splendid day. Killed a young "fry" made cake, pie etc and very busy.

Sun. 16 A splendid day of sunshine, the cool air. We walked to Sunday school and Church as usual. I had 15 Boys present. This afternoon, Mona Wiede, Elma Stewart, Dorothy Riddick Carrie Wiede, Robt. Sympson, Edwin Jones, Ronald McCord Charlie Plath, came. And Mr. + Mrs. John Ramsey spent the evening with us. Its been a jolly day.



May 1915 — 49

Mon. 17 Bright morning, cool & cloudy at noon, and a rainy evening. A rather irritating day for me, but I held on to myself and would not be annoyed. I had a rather large washing and had gotten well started, when old man Grant came to buy the calf and was rather snarlish when I would not let him have it - he only wanted to pay $5.00 and we think it well worth $7.00; then I stopped to pick a bouquet of Purple Iris, Syringa and pink roses for Bernice Radcliffe and just as I finished the "rubbing" of my clothes & thought was getting thro' in fine time, Mrs. Will Baker-Lovall, came and brought a "few pieces" and wanted to wash them & I let her, but she had about three times larger washing than I. She had "fallen out" with Mrs. Walker, where she had gone to work and came in on me, at a hard time for me: she is a mighty, peculiar woman morbidly sensitive. I felt miserable all day, but kept it hid - got dinner for her and when we had eaten almost every thing up, my good husband unexpectedly rushed in for dinner. Mrs. Lovall, talked all afternoon, about Rev. Geissel of Episcopal Church, with whom she is quite infatuated & he much younger and superior in every way - too bad. She stayed for Supper too - a good hearted woman but very trying on ones nerves.



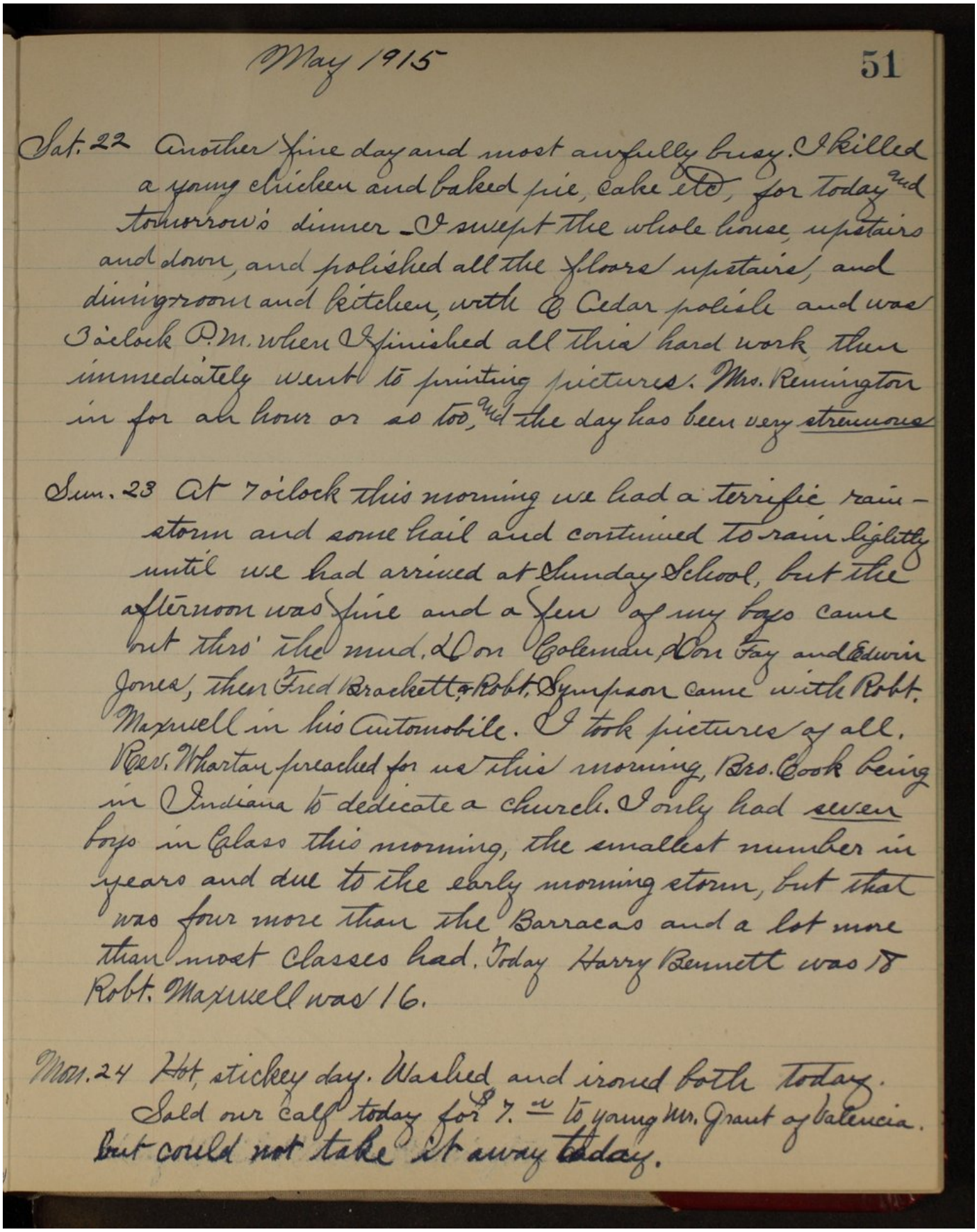
50 May - 1915

Tues. 18 Rained hard all day, so after getting thro' ironing, I wrote letters. I do not see at all, out of my right eye and I find it annoying, but believe it is only because I'm "sort of" "run down."

Wed. 19 Awfully cold and rained hard all day and I wrote letters all day - jolly letters to friends every where.

Thurs. 20 Another day of cold rain and I wrote letters again today - trying to catch up a much neglected correspondence while it is so stormy, no one will come in to interrupt me.

Fri. 21 A bright sunshiny day and I finished all letters but three. Joe Herrera came out this afternoon, to tell me he is going to take a "walking-trip" West. Mona Wiede and Elma Stewart came in for the evening and I developed a roll of Films, which they found interesting. Our neighbor Bettis' horse died this evening - guess too much wet grass and clover. We are selling milk to our neighbors, and buying for our own use, as our neighbors insist on having our Cow's milk

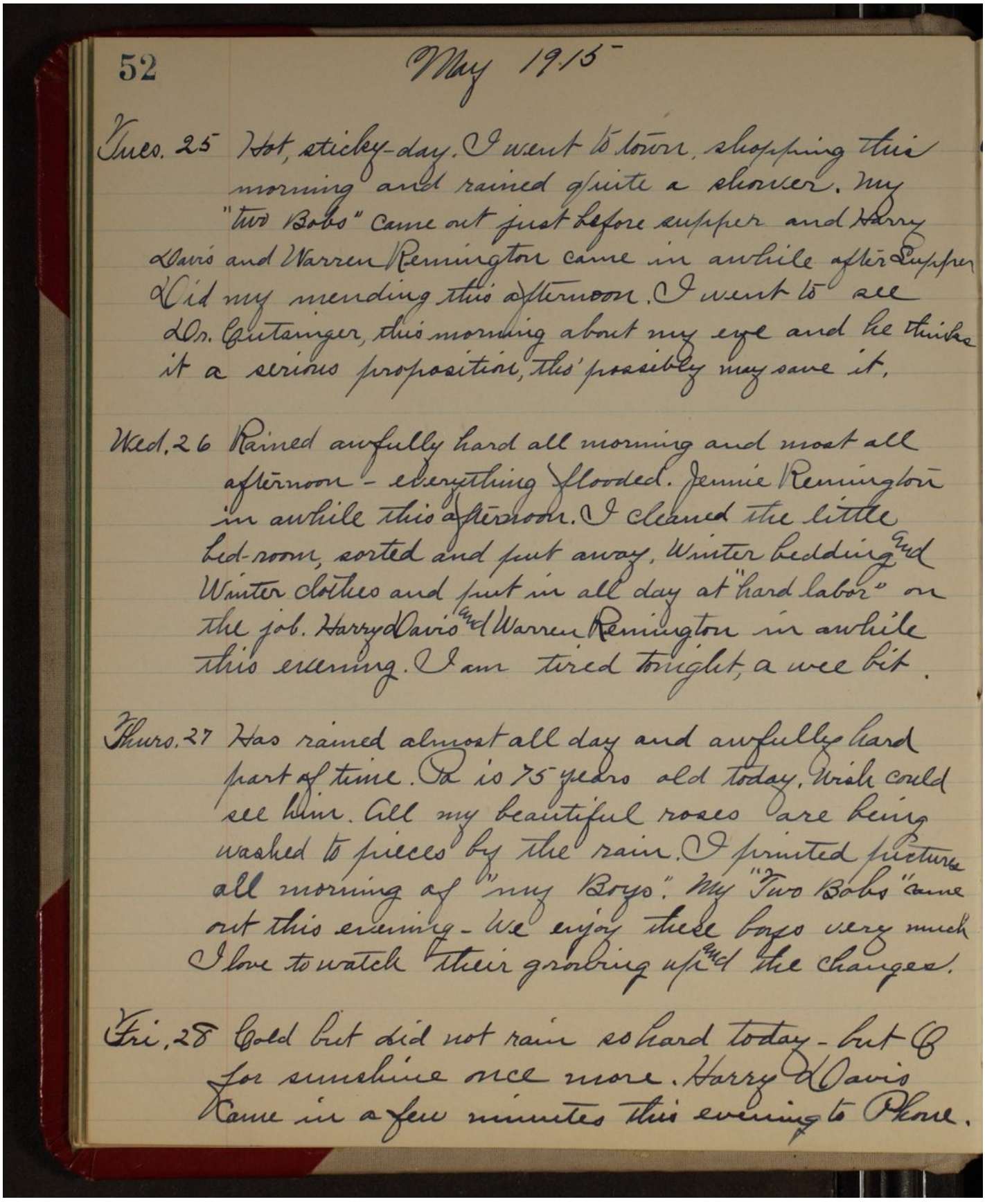


May 1915 51

Sat. 22 Another fine day and most awfully busy. I killed a young chicken and baked pie, cake etc, for today and tomorrow's dinner. I swept the whole house, upstairs and down, and polished all the floors upstairs, and dining room and kitchen, with O Cedar polish and was 3 o'clock P.M. when I finished all this hard work then immediately went to printing pictures. Mrs. Remington in for an hour or so too, and the day has been very strenuous

Sun. 23 At 7 o'clock this morning we had a terrific rain-storm and some hail and continued to rain lightly until we had arrived at Sunday School, but the afternoon was fine and a few of my boys came out thro' the mud. Don Colemen, Don Fay and Edwin Jones, then Fred Brackett & Robt. Sympson came with Robt. Maxwell in his Automobile. I took pictures of all. Rev. Wharton preached for us this morning, Bro. Cook being in Indiana to dedicate a church. I only had seven boys in Class this morning, the smallest number in years and due to the early morning storm, but that was four more than the Barracas and a lot more than most Classes had. Today Harry Bennett was 18 Robt. Maxwell was 16.

Mon. 24 Hot, stickey day. Washed and ironed both today. Sold our calf today for $7.00 to young Mr. Grant of Valencia. But could not take it away today.



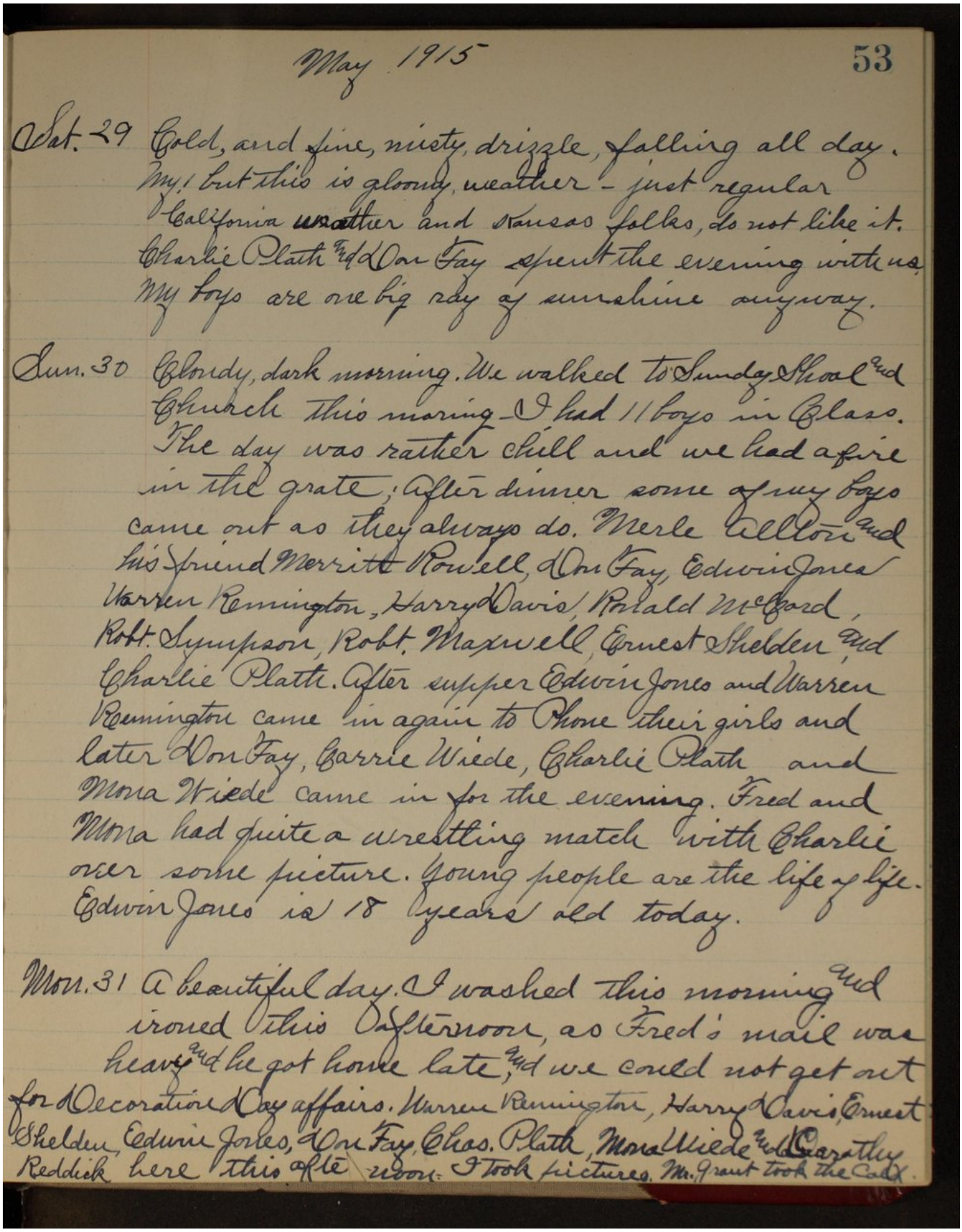
52 May 1915

Tues. 25 Hot, sticky-day. I went to town, shopping this morning and rained quite a shower. My "two Bobs" came out just before supper and Harry Davis and Warren Remington came in awhile after supper Kid my mending this afternoon. I went to see Dr. Entsminger, this morning about my eye and he thinks it a serious proposition, tho' possibly may save it.

Wed. 26 Rained awfully hard all morning and most all afternoon - everything flooded. Jennie Remington in awhile this afternoon. I cleaned the little bed-room, sorted and put away, Winter bedding and Winter clothes and put in all day at "hard labor" on the job. Harry Davis and Warren Remington in awhile this evening. I am tired tonight, a wee bit.

Thurs. 27 Has rained almost all day and awfully hard part of time. Pa is 75 years old today. Wish could see him. All my beautiful roses are being washed to pieces by the rain. I printed pictures all morning of "my Boys". My "Two Bobs" came out this evening - We enjoy these boys very much I love to watch their growing up and the changes.

Fri. 28 Cold but did not rain so hard today - but Oh for sunshine once more. Harry Davis came in a few minutes this evening to Phone.

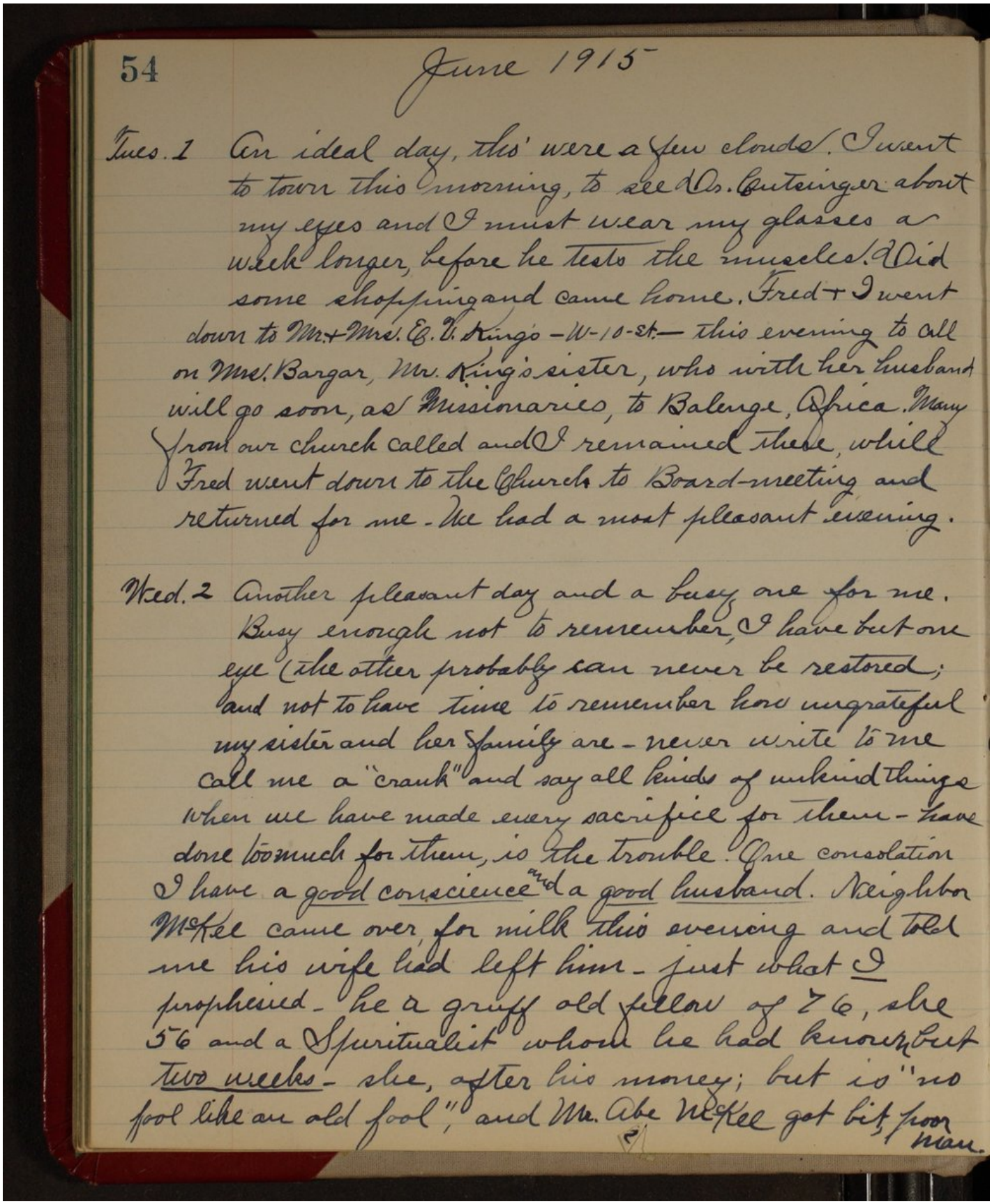


May 1915 53

Sat. 29 Cold, and fine, misty drizzle, falling all day. My! but this is gloomy weather - just regular California weather and Kansas folks, do not like it. Charlie Plath and Don Fay spent the evening with us. My boys are one big ray of sunshine anyway.

Sun. 30 Cloudy, dark morning. We walked to Sunday School and Church this morning. I had 11 boys in Class. The day was rather chill and we had a fire in the grate; After dinner some of my boys came out as they always do. Merle Allen and his friend Merritt Rowell, Don Fay, Edwin Jones Warren Remington, Harry Davis, Ronald McFord, Robt. Sympson, Robt. Maxwell, Ernest Shelden and Charlie Plath. After supper Edwin Jones and Warren Remington came in again to Phone their girls and later Don Fay, Carrie Wiede, Charlie Plath and Mona Wiede came in for the evening. Fred and Mona had quite a wrestling match with Charlie over some picture. Young people are the life of life. Edwin Jones is 18 years old today.

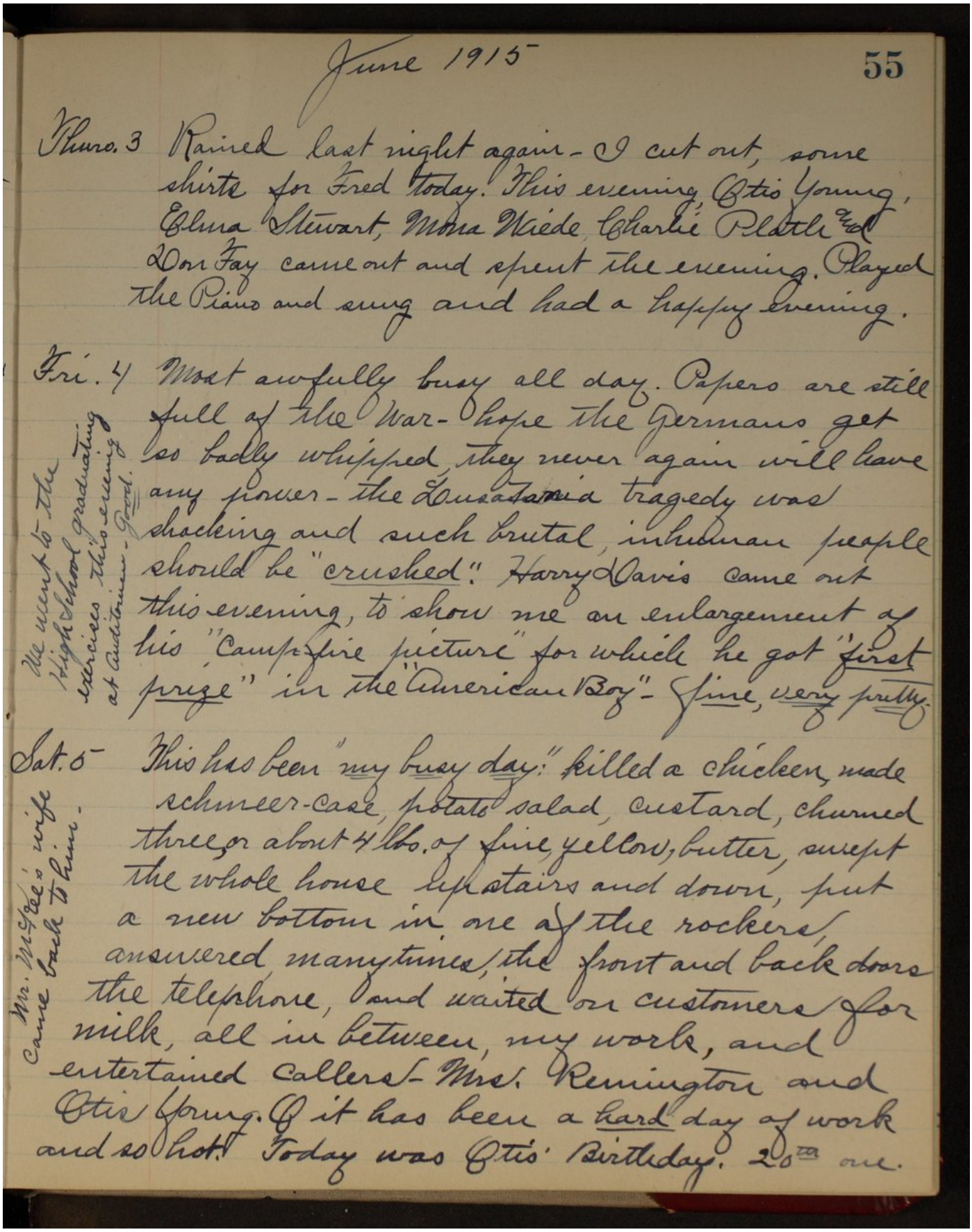
Mon. 31 A beautiful day. I washed this morning and ironed this afternoon, as Fred's mail was heavy and he got home late, and we could not get out for Decoration Day affairs. Warren Remington, Harry Davis, Ernest Shelden, Edwin Jones, Don Fay, Chas. Plath, Mona Wiede and Dorothy Reddick here this afternoon. I took pictures. Mr. Grant took the Cake.



54 June 1915

Tues. 1 An ideal day, this' were a few clouds. I went to town this morning, to see Dr. Entsinger about my eyes and I must wear my glasses a week longer, before he tests the muscles. Did some shopping and came home. Fred + I went down to Mr. + Mrs. E. V. King's – W-10-St.— this evening to call on Mrs. Bargar, Mr. King's sister, who with her husband will go soon, as Missionaries, to Balenge, Africa. Many from our church called and I remained there, while Fred went down to the Church to Board-meeting and returned for me. We had a most pleasant evening.

Wed. 2 Another pleasant day and a busy one for me. Busy enough not to remember, I have but one eye (the other probably can never be restored; and not to have time to remember how ungrateful my sister and her family are – never write to me call me a "crank" and say all kinds of unkind things when we have made every sacrifice for them – have done too much for them, is the trouble. One consolation I have a good conscience and a good husband. Neighbor McKee came over for milk this evening and told me his wife had left him – just what I prophesied. he a gruff old fellow of 76, she 56 and a Spiritualist whom he had known but two weeks – she, after his money; but is "no fool like an old fool", and Mr. Abe McKee got bit, poor man.



June 1915 — 55

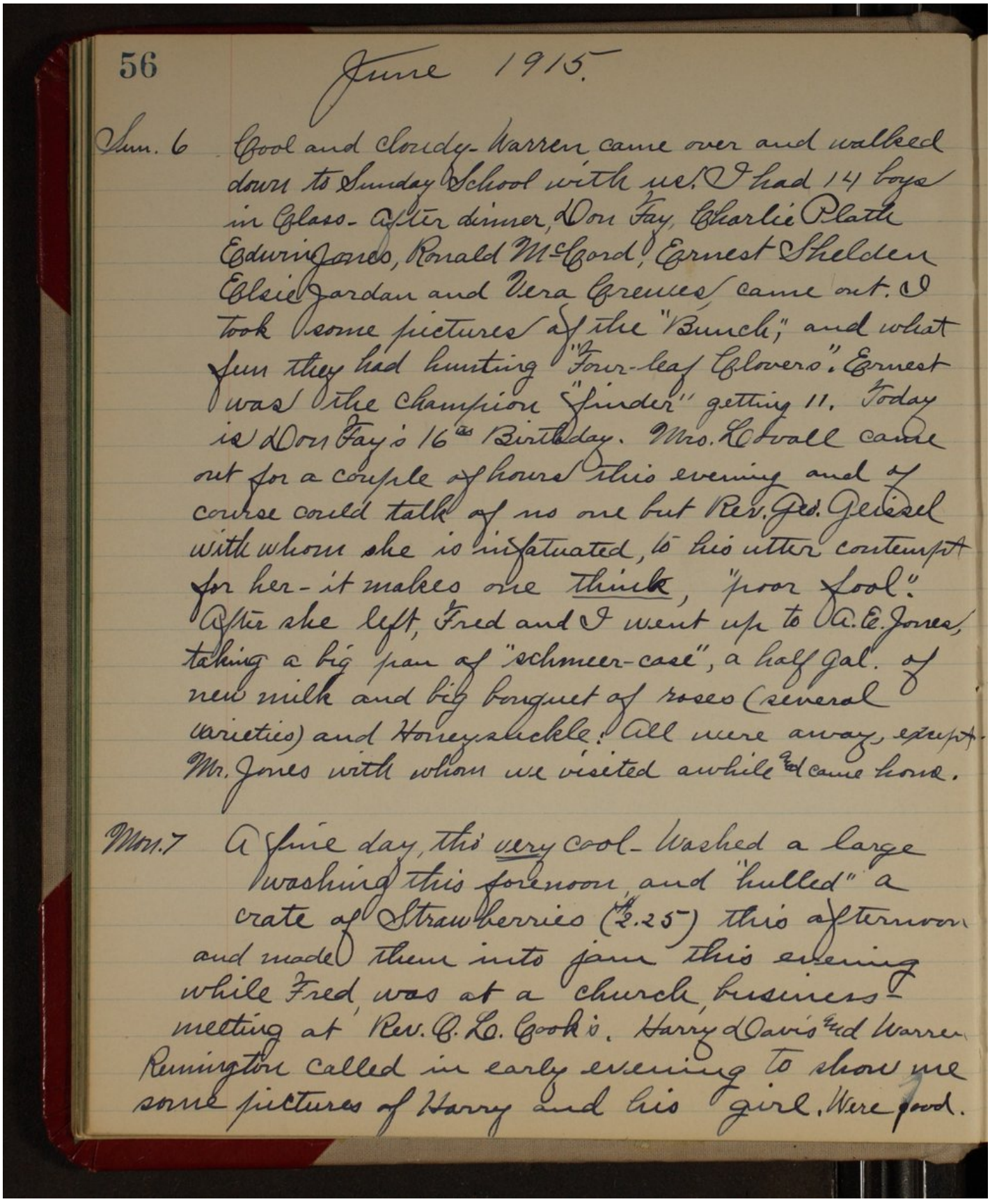
Thurs. 3 Rained last night again - I cut out some shirts for Fred today. This evening Otis Young, Elma Stewart, Mona Wiede, Charlie Platt 2nd & Don Fay came out and spent the evening. Played the Piano and sung and had a happy evening.

Fri. 4 Most awfully busy all day. Papers are still full of the War - hope the Germans get so badly whipped they never again will have any power - the Lusitania tragedy was shocking and such brutal, inhuman people should be "crushed". Harry Davis came out this evening, to show me an enlargement of his "Campfire picture" for which he got "first prize" in the "American Boy" - Fine, very pretty.

We went to the High School graduating exercises this evening at Auditorium - Good.

Sat. 5 This has been "my busy day". killed a chicken, made schmeer-case, potato salad, custard, churned three or about 4 lbs. of fine yellow, butter, swept the whole house upstairs and down, put a new bottom in one of the rockers, answered many times, the front and back door the telephone, and waited on customers for milk, all in between, my work, and entertained callers - Mrs. Remington and Otis Young. O it has been a hard day of work and so hot! Today was Otis' Birthday. 20th one.

Mr. McGee's wife came back to live.



56 June 1915.

Sun. 6 Cool and cloudy- Warren came over and walked down to Sunday School with us. I had 14 boys in Class- After dinner, Don Fay, Charlie Platt Edwin Jones, Ronald McCord, Ernest Sheldon Elsie Jordan and Vera Grennes came out. I took some pictures of the "Bunch," and what fun they had hunting "Four-leaf Clovers". Ernest was the champion "finder" getting 11. Today is Don Fay's 16th Birthday. Mrs. Lovell came out for a couple of hours this evening and of course could talk of no one but Rev. Geo. Gedsel with whom she is infatuated, to his utter contempt for her- it makes one think, "poor fool." After she left, Fred and I went up to A. E. Jones, taking a big pan of "schmeer-case", a half gal. of new milk and big bouquet of roses (several varieties) and Honeysuckle. All were away, except Mr. Jones with whom we visited awhile and came home.

Mon. 7 A fine day, tho' very cool- Washed a large washing this forenoon and "hulled" a crate of Strawberries ($2.25) this afternoon and made them into jam this evening while Fred was at a church business meeting at Rev. C. L. Cook's. Harry Davis and Warren Remington called in early evening to show me some pictures of Harry and his girl. Were good.