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Martha McMillan Chronology

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Martha McMillan Chronology

Compiled by Hunter Hensley, Addison Lamb, and Abigail Wisser (2018)

- 1825 – Robert Murdock and future wife, Elizabeth Richards, come to America.
- 1835 – Robert Murdock and Elizabeth Richards marry in Philadelphia; move to Clinton County.
- 1844 – Martha Murdock born.
- 1856 – James’s father, David McMillan, dies.
- 1857 – Murdocks move to Greene County, Ohio.
- 1865 – End of the Civil War.
- 1866 – Cedarville built a seven-room brick schoolhouse.
- 1867 – Marries James McMillan on (Jan. 26). Begins writing the journals on her wedding night. Lived with his parents until October 1867 when Martha’s mother-in-law and her sisters-in-law, Jane, Jeannette, and Martha moved to a house in Cedarville. Martha reads Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *House and Home Papers*. James and Martha purchase new furniture, new carpeting, and new parlor furnishings.
- 1868 – Fannie is born (Feb. 8). Bad weather for farming; 44 men present to help James raise his new barn.
- 1869 – The McMillan school house built (Aug.); Fannie is very sick with a high fever.
- 1870 – A very dry spring - “driest on record”; Fred is born (May 19).
- 1871 – Dan and Jan McMillan’s 25th anniversary; James and Martha attend the Paris Exposition in Cincinnati. White-washed the dining room and put the heating stove up for the winter.
- 1872 – Harlan is born; James’ mother, Nancy (Wright) McMillan, dies.
- 1873 – Homer is born; typhoid fever cases throughout Cedarville in summer and fall.
- 1874 – Martha discouraged by the great amount of work to do, for which she has “neither the help nor ability to do one half that is to do”; James has typhoid fever.
- 1875 – Fannie starts school at age 7; Women’s Christian Temperance Union is founded in Xenia.
- 1876 – Clara Lucille born (March 11); James bought velocipede for the boys, a picture for Fannie, and two books for Martha. Martha shifts from calling James “Jamie” to “Mr. Mac”; Martha’s father, Robert Murdoch, dies.
- 1878 – Unnamed infant daughter born (Oct. 11) and died (Oct. 28) with funeral on same day as death.

1880 – Clayton born (March 20).

1881 – Late March snowstorm with snow on the ground until April 6th, when it began to thaw, impeding the beginning of plowing; Fred sick with fever for two weeks, staying at Aunt Jane's in Cedarville to be closer to the doctor. It was five weeks before he could return home.

1882 – Jason born (April 5); Jason baptized (Oct 2).

1883 – McMillan school house opened; James is on the school board.

1884 – January, artist visits to sketch farm; Martha participated in the Prohibition and attended speeches (Oct).

1885 – Fannie has a room in Xenia to attend school; Martha receives a new cooking stove and sewing machine.

1886 – Florence born (April 4). Cedarville High School commencement held at the new Opera House; Fannie leaves to attend Monmouth College.

1887 – James and Martha's 20th wedding anniversary; Farewell party for John Murdock's family.

1888 – Two year old Florence dies (Nov. 18) after a week of illness.

1889 – Harlan graduates from Selma High School.

1890 – Paul is born (April 11); Drought (June 17- Aug. 3).

1891 – Fannie marries Tom MacKenzie; Fred comes home for the wedding, the first time home in two years. Fannie and Tom will live in Pine Bush, New York where he will be a pastor.

1892 – Fannie and Tom have a child, Donald.

1893 – Corn planting delayed due to rain; Fannie and baby Donald visit from New York.

1894 – Martha mentions the hard times for her personally, for the farm, and for the nation; Cedarville College opens (Sept. 19th), and Homer and Clara enroll; Martha leaves for New York to visit Fannie; Jason is to keep diary while she is away. This is first time Martha has been away from the farm for an extended visit during her 27 years of marriage. She did not return until January 2, 1895.

1895 – Simon Debro, an African American man from North Carolina, stops at the farm and stays; Homer goes to Monmouth to help Fred with a local newspaper; Fred finishes college; MacMillan school opens and Clayton and Jason attend; Cedarville College opens in its new building and Clara attends.

1896 – Homer attends Cedarville College, then King Oratory School (Pittsburgh, PA), then Cedarville College again; first time the local Reformed Presbyterian Church (R.P.) had communion at the close of the morning service instead of at a 2:00 P.M. service; Fannie visits from NY with her two sons; James and Martha go to Monmouth, Ill. for a visit and for Fred's graduation; Clayton and Jason start High School at Selma; Homer and Clara attend Cedarville College; Paul starts at McMillan school; Fred visits, and Fred and Harlan are home for Thanksgiving.

1897 – James and Martha's 30th wedding anniversary (Jan. 15); Martha starts an afternoon Sabbath School at the McMillan school house; Homer graduates from Cedarville College with five other students (first graduating class); Fannie, Fred, and Harlan all visit in July and the whole family is together; Paul starts 2nd grade at McMillan school; Clayton and Jason return to Selma High school; Clara leaves for college at Monmouth; Homer leaves for New York to attend Union Theological Seminary.

1898 – In April, school directors elected and it was the first time women could vote in this district - a Mrs. Barber was elected (Martha remarks "it is high time" women could vote & be elected!; Martha went to W.C.T.U. convention in Springfield; the Sunday School started in school house is now 1 year old; Homer and Clara home for the summer; Fannie and her two sons, Harlan, Fred, and Fannie's husband (Rev. Thomas MacKenzie) all visit; Homer returns to Union Seminary, Clara returns to college at Monmouth, and Clayton begins at Cedarville College; Jane (James's sister) is severely burned while lighting a lamp and dies at age 86.

1899 – Martha delivered an address to the W.C.T.U. in Lyons, Indiana at age 55; Clayton has chicken pox.

1900 – Homer graduates from Brunswick, N.J. Seminary and then marries Mary Kitchen; Clara enters Drake University, Des Moines; Clayton and Jason attend Cedarville College; Paul is in the grades at McMillan school; Participated in "barn raising" social event.

1902 – Notes 35th wedding anniversary; telegraph poles and lines installed; Dr. Morton's last sermon in the old church; 5th anniversary of her School House Sabbath School, which had 18 students as of January; First Service in new church (now Grace Baptist since 1961 or '62; James' brother Dan, on neighboring farm dies.

1903 – Dr. Morton died (pastor of the Reformed Presby. Church); James and Martha visit Homer in California; James and Martha take a trip to South Carolina, Tennessee, and Michigan.

* This California trip of James and Martha's is written up in a separate volume - it was from Dec. 13, 1903 - to July 21, 1904

1904 – Clayton was in charge of the farm operation while James and Martha were in CA; Reformed Presbyterian Church Congregational meeting to discuss and vote on union with the United Presbyterian. Motion tabled indefinitely; Paul enrolls at Cedarville College; A.B. Henry installed as pastor of the Reformed Presby. Church; Jason and Clayton at Tarkio College; a Dr. Hunt will operate on Homer's bad lung; Paul vaccinated (Jan).

1905 – Clayton sick with mumps; Jason and Clayton graduate from the Business Dep. of Tarkio College; Martha meets the Rankin sisters and likes them; beginning renovation and redecoration of the McMillan home.

1906 – Finishing renovation and redecoration of the home (new furnace, new bathroom); Clayton and Jason visit the Rankin sisters in CO; farm sale: 24 High bred trotting horses –194 sheep –74 hogs – 9 cattle – and farm equipment; first time for individual communion cups, in place of using a common cup at communion service; James and Martha go to Kirksville, MO to undergo osteopathic treatment.

1907 – James and Martha still at Kirksville, Mo. undergoing osteopathic treatment; Paul took over diary writing; Mrs. Williams gives up her work as cook, due to illness - has been working 7 years.

1908 – Jason returns to Princeton Seminary; death of John Murdock (Martha's brother); Martha turns 64; Fannie turns 40; James and Martha move to a furnished house in Yellow Springs (Clayton and Edith are to take over control of the farm house).

*The remainder of 1908 is in the 1909 Diary. (See the 1909 - for 1908 from Nov. 10 - on thru' Dec. 31 - return of the newly-weds - Clayton & Edith to the farm etc.)

1909 – Thanksgiving Day, Clayton & Edith come to Yellow Springs for dinner; word received that Jason had an appendicitis operation; Martha comments on leaving the farm; Martha ill - Martha to Dr. Hunts hospital in Columbus; they arrive back at farm; will stay at farm, give up home in Yellow Springs; Dr. Hunt comes from Columbus to see James this time - diagnosed as hardening of the arteries; Martha and James go to Florida.

1910 – Martha comments on wedding anniversary; Paul dies of tuberculosis at age 20.

1911 – James worsening; grandson John Rankin born.

1912 – Clayton buys an automobile; James dies from an unclear illness (Oct.).

1913 – Martha dies at age 69 in Kenton, Ohio; an unknown person closes the journal after Martha dies.

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