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The Diaries of Martha McMillan, 1867-1913: Volume Notes

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The Journals of Martha McMillan
1867-1913
Volume Notes

written by
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Introduction by
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Introduction

Martha Elizabeth Murdock, born January 26, 1844, was married to James McMillan on January 15, 1867. They lived in the McMillan homestead near Cedarville where James was farmer well-known for the raising of sheep, hogs and high-bred trotting horses as well as the usual field crops. From the day of her marriage until two weeks before her death, Martha kept a diary of the daily events in the home and on the farm, as well as community activities.

James and Martha had ten children, eight of whom lived to adulthood. When Cedarville College opened, two of their children, Homer and Clara were enrolled. In the first graduating class of 1897, Homer was one of the five graduates. In ensuing years, three more of their children were enrolled at the College at various times. Later, Homer, who had become a minister in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., was elected to the Cedarville College Board of Trustees. Another son, Jason, also became a minister in the Southern Presbyterian Church. Their oldest daughter, Frances (Fannie), was married to a minister. All of their children became involved in churches where they attended as adults. No doubt all of them were greatly influenced by their mother Martha's deep faith and strict adherence to her strong belief in God and her knowledge and teaching of the Bible.

Martha and James were the second generation to live in the house near Cedarville where his father had settled in 1832 when he came up from South Carolina to move north. The fifth generation now lives in the home on the road which Martha called the "Pike" and now is known as U.S. Route 42 East with house number 4139.

Please note that the prefix Mc in McMillan was used before 1900 but after that the form MacMillan was legally used by many of the family, recognizing their Scottish heritage.

Written by Lenora MacMillan, wife of the late Rankin MacMillan. September 6, 1988

Volume Notes

Prepared by Rankin MacMillan, 1969 to 1979 Note: text highlighted in yellow includes portions of diary entries written by Martha McMillan

1867

James MacMillan and Martha Murdock were married January 15, 1867. James was 33-Martha 23. James' father (David) had died in 1856. In January of 1867 James' mother (Nancy) and his three unmarried sisters (Jane, Jennette, Martha) were living at the farm. (This was the household

to which James brought his bride! Evidently this was too many for the newly-weds, so by October 1867 a house was purchased on Xenia Avenue in Cedarville and Mother Nancy and the three sisters moved there.) Later Jennette married Bigham Harbison.

Interesting comments in this Diary: [*Note: the following diary entries were not included in the notes, just referenced*]

January 15 entry [*Wedding day*]:

“Murdocks. Plenty of snow, excellent sleighing—bright moonlight. Evening—James and Sam_ took tea with us. After ? we went to preaching at R. P. church. On our way home, called at Mr. Mortons. were married.

“‘Blessed be the tie that binds in union sweet according minds.’ To night James and I stand upon the threshold of a new existence in which the future like a great unfathomed ocean is spread out before us, ‘forward to the setting sun.’ Oh! may we glide along its bosom in ?, peace, and love—until at last we reach its sun set shores, and amid the burst of angle (sic) song pass forever behind the bright curtains of immortality. Oh! how different we will be: ‘ Then it will be heart to heart; and love the sweetest flower with blooms in perfection in the sunlight of a saviors approbation.’ Yes, ‘We’ll find the joy of loving, As we have never loved before, Loving on, ?, unhindered, Loving once and evermore.’”

October 7 entry:

“All at preaching but James. Sermon by J. H. Cooper. Eve. ? called. Night. I am here for an hour or so making arrangements for brothers leaving.”

October 8 entry:

“I am here for a load of goods. Jennett and Matt at C_. After noon James at the elections. We ? ? our stove this morning. Some way I can’t help feeling but that housekeeping is going to be more real than I ever dreamed of—for this life of I can’t help sighing [*cant’ read next few words*], but then that isn’t noble or ?; so I must try and banish such feelings forever from my heart and look for the bright side of the picture and catch the sunshine as I go along.”

October 9 entry:

“Rainbow in the west this morning.... Eve.... but it is lonely. Everything seems waste and desolate, but then ? when this feeling is gone I will think it a great life... James has returned from C_. He and Bob and I took supper alone, and some way or other it seemed more pleasant than one would imagine.”

December 25 entry:

“Christmas ? gloomy and damp rain most of the time. Cal Wilson called from cream for the festival which is going on at Cedarville. James over there greater part of the forenoon.... My Oh! one would hardly think it was Christmas, everything seems more quiet than normal. Eve. Dark and cloudy a little after four James started to C_ Came back before seven in a pelting rain, brought ? book for present for Maria and Bob. This evening one year ago James came ? home to see me —now we are married & “keeping house.” What a change (!) Yet it is a pleasant change , much happier, every so happier now than then. All is perfect confidence and assurance now—then it was partly or rather confidence and assurance tinged with misgivings, or at least this was my experience. Byron says: ‘ Ah love was never yet without A ? and agony, a doubt, that

sends my heart with ceaseless sigh. While day and night roll darkling by.' Now I believe that these ? his sentiments are true. If we were only conversant with heart ? we would find them to be so."

1868

- February 3. A good example of the custom of unexpected guests coming at meal time.
February 8. A new baby daughter (Fannie) arrived.
March 18. First trip to Cedarville since the baby came.
April 9. James MacMillan is discouraged with the weather. Thinks he should sell out and start a wholesale grocery business.
April 10. Still discouraged.
May. Very wet. Corn not planted till June.
June 7. Remarks about the church choir.
June 18. James' mother, Nancy, at the gate. First time since she moved to Cedarville in October of 1867.
June 23. 585 breeding ewes sold to an Illinois man. Took 24 days to drive them there on foot. (See July 22).
August 27. Entered sheep in the fair at Jamestown.
August 28. Farm wages at this time. \$18.00 a month plus board and room.
October James hired carpenters to hew out and build a new barn on the north side of the road.
November 11. Barn "raising." 44 men present.

1869

- January to February 15. Very mild winter weather.
February 15 to April 10. No extreme cold weather, but a cool wet spring.
June. Did not shear sheep till June, then five men worked at it two full weeks.
July 8. Wheat harvested.
August. Did not cut any hay until about August 1 when it was dead ripe. This also took five or six men; they put it in hay-cocks. Part ricked in fields; part in barn.
Took sheep to fair at Jamestown, August 25-27. Took sheep to fair in Xenia, September 1-3.
The McMillan school house built in August.
The Dan Marshall and Townsley houses built in summer
Two sermons each sabbath at the R.P. Church - 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
October 27. First freeze.
November 13. First snow.
December. Fannie very sick in December. High fever.

1870

- Spring. This was a very dry spring - "driest on record."
May. Fred MacMillan (2nd child) born Thursday, May 19th between 4 and 5 p.m.
June. Finally, a good rain on June 1st, then plenty of rain during June and July.
November. First snow on November 22. Had been a good Fall up to this time.

1871 (2 volumes)

- January 29. Martha states her opinion on Psalms and Hymns. "The more I read the Psalms the more I love and appreciate them and feel confident that they will endure forever while all hymns and works of men will be swept away and be burned up and will never be able to abide the day of His coming." *[Note: This entry was not included in the notes]*
- March 23. Martha and children Fred & Fannie, all sick with measles.
- April 8. Dan and Jane McMillan's 25th anniversary. (They lived on farm next to James & Martha's).
- May 6. Started corn planting; finished on May 20.
- May 19. Started sheep shearing; finished June 10, 1000 sheep sheared.
- July. Hay and wheat harvested.
- August 19. McMillan clan picnic in Haney's woods.
- September. James showed sheep at Jamestown fair; also at Clark County fair at Springfield, and at Greene Co. Fair, Xenia.
- September 19. Started cutting corn, put into shocks.
- October 5. James and Martha take the train to Cincinnati to attend the Paris Exposition.
- November 3. White washed the dining room and put the heating stove up for the winter.
- November 20. Made a year's supply of soap. Also, dug a cistern at back of the house.
- November 23. Sold 78 hogs at 4 cents a pound, average weight 330 lbs.
- December 4. First good snow.
- The children: Fannie was 3 years old on Feb. 18, 1871
Fred was 1 year old on May 19, 1871.

1872

Not much to record from this book—mostly a good picture of farm life.

This year, the children, Fannie & Fred were 4 and 2 years old.

March 14. On March 14th, a third child is born and named Harlan.

James had a large number of sheep, hogs, milk cows, chickens, bees. Crops were corn, wheat, hay, pumpkins, apples, potatoes. How many acres of his farm he had at this time, however, I note that he did have sheep on pasture on four other farms besides this one, so he had several hundred head.

December 12. James' mother (David McMillan's widow and my [Rankin] great-grandmother) died. The funeral was held on December 14. Martha records Rev. Morton's funeral oration which is interesting to me. (See pages 180 - 185)

".....This departed Mother was born in South Carolina in 1795, 78 years ago. She was married in 1812, 61 years ago. With her husband and family she came to this country in 1831, 42 years ago. She was left a widow with a large family in 1856, 17 years ago. She lived 78 years, raised a large family, all of whom survive her except the late Rev. S. K. McMillan. She was a consistent member of the church, spent a long life in the service of Christ and now like a shock of corn falling ripe in its season, she has been gathered who can doubt into the great granary above." *[Note: This entry was not included in the notes]*

1873

The family at this time: James McMillan, now 39. Martha, now 29. Fannie, 5 yrs., Fred, 3 yrs., Harlan, 1 year.

Then at the end of the year, December 20, Homer is born.

Not too much to note—mostly a busy daily life on the farm, in the church, and in the community.

March-early May. Were wet and cold. No corn planted until June. Wages on the farm at that time were room and board plus \$80.00 for six months work.

4000 lbs. of wool were sold for .60 cents a pound. Hogs sold for 4 to 4 ½ cents a lb.

There were a number of people to be fed 3 meals a day, because it took more labor (hired help) to accomplish all the farm work. Also, people (friends, neighbors, and relatives) all seemed to visit near meal time, and of course were invited to eat with the family.

November. If anyone reading this remembers the old storage cave in the backyard; it was constructed in November of 1873. This was a cool place to keep some of the foods.

There seemed to be numerous case of typhoid fever in the summer and fall of 1873.

1874

At the beginning of this year: James was 40 years old. Martha was 30 years old. Daughter Fannie was 6 yrs., son Fred was 4 yrs., son Harlan was 2 yrs., and baby Harlan [sic. Homer] was 2 weeks.

This is a good diary to read if you want to know what “the good old days” were like in the 1870's. On the entry for September 3, you will read how discouraged Martha (my grandmother) was. Good help was as hard to get as it is now. *[Note: the following entry was not included in the notes]*

“I have been feeling very much discouraged for the last few days. ? with work neither the help nor ability to do one half that is to do—farm men to be waited on at morning, noon and night—four children to be attended to with only a little girl to depend upon to help my ? certainly a very ? And ? more grace bear up this last week or so than I sometimes had, but this afternoon there seemed to be a break in the clouds, and I felt that the burden would drop off, ? to have to be taken up again. ...And if we put our trust in the ?, why there will certainly be another way provided for us to get along without such a taxation on our time strength and patience.”

November 2. James took the train to Pennsylvania on a sheep buying trip. Returned Nov. 13.

December 11. James became sick with a very strange illness; was not out of bed till December 30th. (Later they said it was typhoid fever.)

1875

January 25. James who became ill with typhoid fever on Dec. 11, 1874 was not able to get out of the house until January 25, 1875.

April Fannie started school, she was 7 years old. (Note that a school was built on the corner of the farm at Columbus Pike and McMillan Road; not far from the homestead; school continued in this building till around 1917.)

The diary again records the busy farm life—and church and family activities.

July/August. Most of July and early part of August was very wet. They were unable to get hay made, or thresh wheat.

September 22. A heavy frost came.

1876

- January 1. Martha notes that New Year's Day is beautiful--warm sunshine. The children were able to play outside all day! Almost seemed like Spring. She writes that she and Fannie (eldest of the children) are sitting alone, the three little brothers having been tucked away snugly in their beds. Mr. McMillan returns home, bringing New Year's presents--a velocipede for the boys, a picture for Fannie, and two books for Martha (Note: Martha in early days of the marriage--when writing of her husband calls him "Jamie"--now she uses "Mr. Mc" As the MacMillans settled here in Greene County, they were using the Mc prefix to their name; in the early 1900's most of the David McMillan descendants decided to use the MAC prefix, which noted the Scotch heritage. Having come from Scotland, and through Ireland, they could use either one--so, some chose to mad MAC their official spelling.)
- January 2. On the 2nd day of the new year she notes that Mr Mc heard the children repeat the catechism, and pray their prayers--a ritual which she usually heard.
- March 11. They are blessed with a baby girl which they name Clara Lucille.

1877

No notes by Rankin MacMillan

1878

No notes by Rankin MacMillan

[Added January 2015: Through various research methods and resources, the discovery was made in 2014 that James and Martha lost a baby at birth in 1878. Since Rankin did not provide notes for that year, we had no way of knowing what day the baby was born and/or died. After a recent gravesite search, we discovered the "baby daughter" grave at the Massie Creek cemetery near Cedarville. In the information connected with the photo, a birth and death date for the baby were provided, both being October 26th. In the journal for that date, Martha talks about the baby's death (she is never named), but indicates that she had lived 15 days. So backing up to October 11, the journal entry talks about the baby's birth. So a mystery is solved. The following are the transcriptions for October 11 to 28, 1878:]

October 11, 1878 Friday

"...Between nine and ten oclock to night another daughter was welcomed to our home. O what a treasure is entrusted to our keeping. Can we but ask that her life may be one of worth and beauty of life and blessedness, that the heavenly Shepherd may lead our darling through green pastures and by quiet waters and at last receive her into the heavenly fold. When we look over our little family we can not but feel how our circle is widening--three sons and three daughters--what an inheritance, what a glorious inheritance if we can say on that great day, here we are and the children thou hast given us."

October 20, 1878 Sunday

"...The baby does not seem well this eve."

October 21, 1878 Monday

"The baby does not seem well. Fannie staid at home from school to help me attend to things.... I sat up today a few minutes for the first--the baby not well."

October 22, 1878 Tuesday

"...The baby seems some better."

October 23, 1878 Wednesday

"...The baby seems better."

October 24, 1878 Thursday

"...Have not been feeling well with headache."

October 26, 1878 Saturday

" The baby sick last night. She had a very sore finger. She was very restless most of the night.... Our poor little baby struggling all night with inward spasms.... At fifteen minutes after eight the baby died. She has been with us first fifteen days--for fourteen nights she slept in my arms. All I could think of to day when I felt that she must die was that Jesus the tender Shepherd gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them in his bosom."

October 28, 1878 Monday

"...The funeral for our little baby daughter at ten this A.M. Quite a little company assembled in our sitting room & front bed room. Mr Morton and [] Torrance and Mr French, OS conducted the exercises. Mr Morton began the exercise by reading those Scriptures where Christ gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them in his bosom. In his remarks he said that God had commissioned this little babe to do an important work for Him. He had sent her with a message to us. He had a lesson for her to teach us which could not be done so well any other way. O that He may give us strength and wisdom to learn the lesson he would teach and receive the blessings which Almighty love can bring out of the affliction. All of this family went to the cemetery but me. Sister Jane, Miss [] and Jane Rizer with me...."

1879

No notes by Rankin MacMillan

1880

A good account of daily life on the farm of James and Martha McMillan. The 3 older children, Fannie, Fred, and Harlan are in school, however it seemed a custom to keep one or all out of school whenever certain chores in the house or on the farm needed to be done.

Winter. The winter of 1880 was very mild and very little snow. An early Spring--corn planted by May 20th. Early wheat harvest, started cutting wheat on June 20th.

March 20. On March 20th a new baby arrived, named Clayton (this baby will be my father, who at the time I am reading and making these notes has been deceased since 1947)

I might add that this year as I am reading these diaries of my grandmother Martha, I am 58 years old. I was only 2 3/4 years old when grandmother died, so I don't really remember her. Grandfather James died before grandmother so I did not know him at all. As I read these diaries I learn that he (James) seemed to spend most of his time with the sheep, or in buying wool and

trading in other livestock in a radius of about ten or 15 miles. As you will learn in other diaries, he would have as many as 1000 sheep in any one year. He was a noted raiser of good stock—sometimes was called “Sheep” Jim McMillan to distinguish him from another James. November. “Real” winter set in, in November—as you will see in the 1881 book.

1881

In this year James is 48, Martha 38, the children: Fannie 13 years. Fred 11 years. Homer is 7. Clara is 5, Clayton is 1.

January 17. School re-opened today; was closed since December 3rd.

March 27-29. Late March snowstorm. This snow stayed on the ground until April 6th when it began to thaw. On this date Martha reports that this was quite a winter for snow. Snow had started on Nov. 13, 1880 and had continuous snow on the ground from Dec. 8 to February 7—making 62 days of continuous sleighing in Greene County. It was April 20 before the ground was dry enough to start plowing.

June 27. Bought a new self-binding wheat reaper.

August. A sheep shed erected on north side of the road.

House help seemed to be hard to get in 1881 in Cedarville Twp. As it is in 1969.

Children did not start to school until 8 years old. That Fall, Fannie did not start until the last of October, due to helping at home.

Fred took sick Oct. 1 with some type of fever; was very sick for two weeks—stayed at Aunt Jane’s in Cedarville so he would be close to a doctor; five weeks before he was able to return home—not able to go to school until Nov. 17.

1882

James and Martha have now been married 15 years. Their children are Fannie 14 yrs., Fred 12 yrs., Harlan 10 yrs., Homer 8 yrs., Clara 6 yrs, Clayton 2 yrs. And Clayton on his 2nd birthday March 20 was not talking yet.

April 5. New baby Jason arrived at 3:30 a.m. Martha writes almost a half a page of what she prays and wishes her son to be. [*Note: the entry below was not included in the notes*] (She had a gift of expressing beautiful thoughts—and her wishes for her children largely came true. This baby became a prominent minister, as did her son Homer. Fannie married a minister, Fred was a lay leader in U. P. Church and the rest were active in their home churches.)

“At half past three this morning our darling son Jason came into our home—a poor little piece of humanity yet possessing a life that will exist when time and worlds will have passed away. Upon this first morning of they life what blessing and honor or preferment do I desire for thee my darling son? O I do ask that my precious son “may ?, may strong in spirit filled with wisdom and the power of God may be upon him.” O I do ask that his life may be all for Jesus. Where his ?? may his ever be—loving loyal and faithful. And at last when his feet have proven weary with the march of life may the loving Savior gather home—to that happy home in heaven.”

April 27. Was the first day Martha was up all day since Jason’s birth on the 5th.

April 27-28. 75 trees, oak, maple, and ash were planted.

June 8. Finished corn planting.

July 7. Began wheat cutting with the binder, but due to rain didn’t finish until July 15.

July 21. Started hauling bundles of wheat to the barn to be threshed later from the barn.
August 10. Spring and summer up to August 10th was wetter than usual.
October 2. Jason baptized.
November 26. First snow
November 28/29. Threshed the wheat out of the barn. Had 17 men to dinner.

1883

The family in 1883: James 49 yrs. old, Martha 430 yrs. old. Daughter Frances (Fannie)-15 years. Son Fred-13 years, son Harlan-11 years, son Homer-9 years, daughter Clara-7 years, son Clayton-3 years, son Jason-1 year old on April 8th, wt. 22 lbs.

March 12. Clara was seven years old yesterday—so she went to school today. (The custom seemed to be that you started school when you became seven, no matter what time of year.)

April. No plowing done until middle of April; March had been cold and wet, April continued wet.

May 9. Corn planting began.

May 21. Had a snow

May 30. Finished corn planting

June. Sheared sheep

July 12. Started wheat harvest (cut and shocked). Made hay the last two weeks in July.

August. The first part of August, hauled wheat into the barn to be threshed later (wheat threshed out of barn Sept. 18th)

September 19. Began corn cutting.

October 1. McMillan school house opened. (School in Cedarville opened early in September). The MacMillan school board (trustees) were James MacMillan, Henry Kyle, and Joe Barber.

Fall. Wonderful Fall weather, all of October, November and first two weeks of December. No snow until Dec. 16.

December 5. Butchered nine hogs—and cured for food.

1884

James - 50 years old

Martha - 40 years old

Daughter Frances (Fannie) - 16 yrs.

son Fred - 14 yrs.

son Harlan - 12 yrs.

son Homer - 10 yrs.

daughter Clara - 8 yrs.

son Clayton - 4 yrs.

son Jason - 2 yrs.

January 1. New Years Day - snow—continued cold the first 3 weeks. Temperature as low as 20 degrees below zero some mornings. January thaw the last week.

April 4/5. Threshed clover seed and the rest of last years wheat out of the barn.

May 16-30. Planted corn.

June 5-13. Sheared sheep.

July 6. Began cutting wheat, finished on the 12th. Purchased a stacker to use in hay harvest; then made hay the last two weeks of July.

September 29. McMillan school opened.

October. New shingles were put on the front part of the house. Removed the roof from dining room and kitchen and built a second story above them, plus an outside stairway to them, and a porch. Finished all but painting on them by Nov. 14.

December 11. First heavy snowfall.

December 13. Notes there are 1000 sheep on the farm and on rented pasture.

Note: At this time all interior walls and ceilings were whitewashed each year. They used carpet on the floors only in winter. Took them up in April, and put them back down in November. All heating done with wood and some coal, either in fireplaces or heating stoves.

1885

The parents, James and Martha, are now 51 and 41 years old. The children are Frances (Fannie)-17, Fred-15, Harlan-13, Homer-11, Clara-9, Clayton-5 and Jason 3.

January, February, March were cold and wet, no plowing done until April 21st.

May 15 - 25th. Corn planting.

June 1st - 6th Sheared sheep.

July 12-14. Cut wheat

July 15-29. Made hay.

July 29-30. Cut oats.

September. Daughter Frances and cousin Lizzie Murdock took a room in Xenia, so they could go to school there.

During August, September, and October son Fred with James Caldwell made many trips to Springfield by horse and wagon taking sweet corn, tomatoes, later apples and pumpkins to sell at the market. They could leave home at midnight to be there by morning market hours, and would get home about 4:00 p.m.

October. First frost.

November. First snow. They had a good potato crop; hauled several loads to Springfield in November.

December. Martha got a new cooking stove, and a new sewing machine.

1886

James and Martha are 52 and 42 in this year. Their children: Fannie-18, Fred-16, Harlan-14, [sic. Homer-12], Clara-10, Clayton-6, and Jason 4 years of age.

April 4. A new baby arrives, a little girl whom they name Florence.

April 20. Started plowing

May 19. Began corn planting. Finished the 30th.

June 1. Cedarville High School commencement is held in the new Opera House, the first meeting in the new building.

June 17. Fannie and Lizzie Murdock completed a special one year course at Xenia High School.

July 1. James bought a new wheat binder; started cutting wheat on July 1, ricked the wheat to be threshed later. Spent the last two weeks of July making hay—put part of it in the barns, and stacked part in the field.

September 6. Fred started school at Selma. Fannie left for a year at Monmouth College.

October 2. First frost.
November 5. First snow.
December 23. Fannie arrived home for Christmas vacation.

1887

Ages of family. James-53. Martha 43. Fannie 19. Fred 17. Harlan 15. Homer 13. Clara 11. Clayton 7. Jason 5. Florence 1 yr.
Fred is attending Selma High School. Clara is attending McMillan School. Clayton starts at McMillan School on January 11th. Fannie returns to Monmouth College on Jan. 12. Harlan and Homer not in school, helping on the farm.
January 15. James and Martha observe 20th wedding anniversary.
May. Fred finished at Selma High School in May, then helps on farm.
June 25. Fannie returns home from Monmouth.
September 4. Fred and Harlan go to school at Selma.
September 6. Fannie leaves for Monmouth College.
September 19. McMillan School opens, Homer, Clayton, Clara attend.
November 2. A farewell party for the John Murdocks who are moving to Bloomington, Ind. (He is cousin Anabel's father).

1888

The family. James 54 and Martha 44. Fannie 20. Fred 18. Harlan 16. Homer 14. Clara 12. Clayton 8. Jason 6. Florence 2.
Beginning this year Fannie is at Monmouth College. Fred and Harlan are at high school in Selma. Homer is taking a special short hand course at Cedarville. Clara and Clayton are at McMillan grade school.
February 13. Homer starts school at Selma; Fred finished his term at Selma.
This winter rather mild, April a good month, able to get plowing done. Potatoes planted early. Started corn planting on May 5. From May 8th to 23 very wet and cool—delaying planting, finally finished May 31.
June 1. Sheep shearers cam 1st week in June; 600 sheep were sheared.
June 23. Fannie home from Monmouth.
August. Thomas MacKenzie comes to Xenia, and to the farm to see Fannie.
September 3. Fred leaves home for Monmouth College. Harlan returns to Selma High.
September 24. McMillan school opens with Fannie as the teacher. Clara, Clayton and Jason attending there.
October 3. A heavy frost.
October 7. Homer and Harlan go to Selma High
November 9. Florence becomes ill. Get medicine from Dr. Oglesbee. Between Nov. 9 and 18, they did all they could for Florence. She could not retain any food. On November 18th she died at 4:00 p.m. [at the age of 2]. *[Note: the entry below was not included in the notes]*

“....At four o'clock this afternoon our darling little Florence left us. O it was so hard to say good bye. While we gathered around her little bed we wept—the more to know that Fred was not with us—then we remembered that Grandmother Murdock and Aunt Mary were away which added to the sadness. O to think that Florence is gone. ‘?—whose so dark ? is cherished, Where not ?, nor fears invade, ?—ere youth's first flower had perished, to a youth that ne'er can fade.’”

O what a glorious change for Florence, who can picture the glory—taken as she was from the bed of illness—of pain and suffering and thirst and burning fever and ushered into the realm of eternal glory, into the warm embrace of the Savior that gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them in his bosom. I have never realized so fully what death is as I have done today. O how utterly helpless we are and powerful God is. Dr. Miller stayed with us till the last—Uncle Ervin and Aunt Bell remained and Uncle Ervin had worship with us. We sang the twenty third Psalm and he read 103 Psalm.”

1889

- January 7. Fred returns to Monmouth after being home for Christmas vacation; is not back home until the middle of August, then returns to Monmouth on Sept. 5.
- May. Harlan graduates from Selma High.
- September. Homer goes back to Selma. Harlan works on the farm.
- October 7. McMillan School opened with Hugh Whittenton as teacher. Clara, Clayton and Jason in school there.

I did not make extensive notes, although this diary is full of happenings on a farm with this large family. There is always something going on. Mr. MacKenzie came from Xenia to see Fannie several times.

1890

- James was 57 and Martha 47. Their children were Fannie 22 at home. Fred 20, attending Monmouth College. Harlan is 18, attending Business College in Springfield. Homer, 16, attending Selma High School. Clara 14, Clayton 10, Jason 8, all attending McMillan school. Mr. MacKenzie (Tom) attending Xenia Seminary and making regular calls on Fannie.
- April 10. Harlan home from Business School.
- April 11. A new baby son arrives; they name him Paul.
- June 9. Fred will stay at Monmouth for the summer, will work on the newspaper.
- June 17 - August 3. Very dry. 47 days without rain.
- November 12. Harlan returns to Business School at Springfield; he had been working on the farm since April 10.
- November 24. A horse runs away with James. (Note: James is my grandfather; he died when I was only 2, so I do not remember him; but reading these diaries makes him real to me. Rankin MacMillan)

1891/1892

- Son Fred living at Monmouth, Ill. Publishing newspaper.
- Daughter Fannie at home doing substitute teaching.
- Son Harlan attending Business College in Springfield.
- Son Homer helping on the farm.
- Clary, Clayton and Jason attending MacMillan school.
- May 14. Marriage of Fannie and Tom MacKenzie; they will live in Pine Bush, N.Y. where he will be pastor of the United Presbyterian Church. *[Note: the entry below was not included in the notes]*

“...with all the above friends gathered around the front door in the lawn and at 8:30 [a.m.] Fannie and Rev. T. N. MacKenzie took their place on the front step where they stood while the ceremony was performed. Rev. Wm. Morton officiated assisted by Dr. McKenzie and Rev. ?.

Immediately after congratulations breakfast was served and after a hurried good bye Fred, Clara Bay ? and Lizzie Murdock drove them to Cedarville to 10:30 train for New York City where they will spend a week or two at Salem ? before going to their home in Pinebush, N.Y... All were gone and we were left alone—and we felt alone. We felt like it was after the funeral. Fannie got several very handsome presents... All very lonely and sad tonight. Clara and Clayton especially so.”

Fred home for the wedding; first time in over two years; remained until June 8th.

July 27. Wheat threshing machine came; needed 30 people to help, all were fed both at noon and in the evening. It rained the 28th and 29th, then same 30 helped again on 29th and 31st.

September 3. Fred started classes at Monmouth College.

September 7. Clara went to stay with Mrs. Stuart in Springfield, and will attend high school there.

September 14. Clayton and Jason attending MacMillan School

November 27. Fannie and Tom MacKenzie home for a visit in November.

January [1892] Fannie and Tom MacKenzie at Pine Bush, N.Y. Fred at Monmouth, Ill., Harlan and Homer helping on the farm. Clara staying in Springfield and attending high school. Clayton and Jason going to MacMillan school. Paul is 2 years old in April. Uncle Joe Caldwell is living in Cedarville, also comes out to help on the farm.

May 7. A son is born to the MacKenzies—named Donald..

June. Homer and Will McMillan (cousin) shearing sheep.

June 24. Clara comes home for the summer.

July 26. Fred home for visit, been away for over a year; returned to Monmouth August 1.

September 5 & 6. Interesting remarks on Homer’s leaving for his first year at Monmouth College. *[Note: the entry below was not included in the notes]*

“[September 5] “I helped Homer pack his trunk tonight. He leaves for Monmouth College in the morning. For years I have longed and planned and hoped that he might have the advantage of a college education. Now I do hope that he will be so ?—helped and animated with this spirit—that he will never stop short of getting the very best that can be obtained. It is now near midnight—there were so many things to be thought of—but I must rest... When I came to write this date [September 6] it reminds me that on this day in 1886 Fannie left for Monmouth College—and on the same day the following year she again left for the same place and then it was the first week in September that I helped to pack Fred’s trunk for two successive years—and now today Homer left us. Father took him to Xenia... We all felt sorry to have him go away—for the boys it means a great deal—and it means a great deal to father and to mother as well—but we hope for the blessed out come and result of his going....”

Clara returned to high school in Springfield.

September 26. Harlan took a position at Springfield with Carson’s Wholesale Grocery.

October 17. Threshed wheat out of barn—320 bushels, 65 cents a bushel. Other crops raised during the year—corn, hay, potatoes, apples. Livestock—sheep, hogs, horses, chickens.

November 9. First snow arrived.

December 25. Homer, Harlan, Clara get home for Christmas.

1893

As this year began; at home, parents Martha and James, sons Clayton, Paul, Jason. Fred and Homer are at Monmouth College. Harlan is working at Carson's Wholesale Grocery in Springfield, and Clara is staying in Springfield to attend high school. Oldest daughter Fannie, married to Tom MacKenzie, lives in Pine Bush, N.Y. with little son Donald, born May 7, 1892. April and May. Wet months; corn planting delayed.

June 9. Homer home from college; spent 2 weeks at World's Fair in Chicago.

July 7. Fannie and baby Donald arrive from N.Y. State, and stayed until Sept. 13, when Clara went home with her.

Home helped on the farm all summer; returned to Monmouth on Sept. 5th.

September. Clayton goes to stay in Cedarville with Aunt Mary Murdock so that he might attend Cedarville High School.

September 16. Harlan has been at Carson's in Springfield for 1 year.

September 18. McMillan School opens; Jason only family member in attendance this year.

October 23. Fred home from Monmouth to visit.

October 26. Clara will stay at Fannie's and attend school.

November 3. Fred returns to Monmouth.

December 3. Sleet storm, stayed on ground until Dec. 10.

December 21. Homer home for Christmas vacation from Monmouth.

1894

In this year- James is 60, Martha is 50. Oldest daughter (married) Fannie is 26. Fred is 24.

Harlan is 22. Homer is 20. Clara is 18. Clayton is 14. Jason is 12 and Paul is 4.

January 15. Martha mentions the hard times in the nation and on the farm; also that this is their 27th anniversary. Homer returns to Monmouth. Then he returns in April to help on the farm. Clayton in school at Cedarville till early May, then home to help on the farm.

May 15. Clara, Fannie, and son Donald arrive; Clara has been at Fannie's in school since September.

Home, Jim Little and Walter Murdock shear sheep this year.

May 26. Jason made his first public speaking appearance at the Cedarville Opera House.

June 16. Fred home from Monmouth College. Tom MacKenzie arrives for a visit.

June 20. The MacKenzies return to N. Y. State.

July 2. Fred returns to Monmouth.

September 19. An account of the opening of Cedarville College. Homer and Clara enrolled; will stay in Cedarville at Aunt Mary Murdock's. *[Note: the entry below was not included in the notes]*

"I began the experience of the day by taking Homer and Clara to the opening of Cedarville College. It opened at the old residence of the late Dr. Hugh McMillan. Who can foretell the end.... We came home and had supper and went back to the opening exercises of the College at the Opera House. We had addresses from the President—Rev. M Kinney—Steel of N. Y. Waters of Pittsburg and from our much esteemed Prof. McChesney. Music fine and audience large. The occasion grand. Everyone pleased."

Sept. 21 "....the first week of Cedarville College has past into history."

- November 4. Martha leaves for New York to visit Fannie's. Jason is to keep the diary while she is away. *[Note: handwriting changes]*. This is the first time Martha has been away from the farm for an extended visit during the 27 years of marriage. She did not return until January 2, 1895. An account of this visit is in the back of the diary. *[Smaller pages are sewn into the back of the diary dated Nov. 6 to Jan. 2]*
- December 29. Fred home from Monmouth for visit.

1895

- January 11. Fred returns to Monmouth College.
- January 16. Simon Debro, a colored man from North Carolina stops at the farm and stays.
- January 26. Martha's birthday - 51 years old. Clara and Homer attending Cedarville College.
- Spring. James Little, Uncle Joe Caldwell, Simon Debro and Noah Smith help on the farm.
- May 14. Cold, a little snow early in the day; continued cloudy and cold until May 19th.
- July 17. Fred home from Monmouth for a visit, returned to Monmouth Aug. 29.
- September 9. Homer goes to Monmouth to help Fred with the local newspaper; Fred would finish college.
- September 10. McMillan School opens-Clayton and Jason attend.
- September 18. Cedarville College opens in their new building-Clara will stay at Aunt Jane's in Cedarville to attend college.
- December 16. James' birthday - 62 years.
- These few notes do not indicate a lack of activity on the farm. Every day was filled with work for each one. They were busy with church-school-and community affairs.

1896

- January 1. Martha tells who is at the farm, and tells the whereabouts of the ones away from home.
- January 11. Sold 51 hogs at \$3.75 per one hundred pounds; hauled them to market in wagons.
- January 25. Homer returns from his work in Monmouth.
- February 27. [James and Martha] made a visit to Wilmington, O.; it took about 5 hours each way by double team and carriage.
- March 1. Homer attending Cedarville College.
- March 20. Clayton's birthday-16 years old.
- March 22. First time the local Reformed Presbyterian Church had communion at the close of the morning service instead of at a 2:00 p.m. service. Also, in these years they had preparatory services on both Friday and Saturday afternoons and a closing service on Monday at 10:00. There were only two communion services during the year-Spring and Fall.
- April 5. Jason's birthday-14 years old.
- May 27. Fannie arrives from N. Y. with her two sons, Donald and Malcolm MacKenzie.
- June 3. James and Martha go to Monmouth, Ill. for a visit and for Fred's graduation on June 11. *[A program for this graduation was located between pages 124 and 127. Pages 125 and 126 have been torn out.]*
- June 9. Homer goes to Pittsburgh, Pa. to attend King Oratory School.
- June 17. James and Martha return from Monmouth.
- June 25. Fred takes a job in Chicago with Mr. Shountz.
- July 14. The MacKenzies return to New York.

- August 5. Homer returns from Pittsburgh.
 September 7. Clayton and Jason start high school at Selma.
 September 11. Homer and Clara attend Cedarville College.
 September 14. Paul starts at McMillan School.
 September 26. Fred home for visit; first time since August 1895—returns to Chicago Sept. 28.
 November 25. The MacKenzies (Rev. Tom) accepted a call to Port Jarvis, N.Y.—leaving Pine Bush pastorate.
 November 26. Fred and Harlan home for Thanksgiving.

1897

- January 1. Martha records where all her family is located.
 January 15. James and Martha's 30th wedding anniversary.
 January 26. Martha's 53rd birthday. Corn 20 cents a bushel; potatoes 25 cents a bushel delivered to Springfield.
 May 23. Martha starts an afternoon Sabbath School at the McMillan School house.
 June 10. Homer graduates from Cedarville College—the 1st graduating class—a class of five members. *[Note: the entry below was not included in the notes]*

“Mr. Mc, Clayton, Jason, Paul, and Uncle Joe and I attended the first commencement of Cedarville College, at ten o'clock in the Opera House. The five graduates Raymond Poster Garbald of Ross Ohio and J. W. Bickett, of Xenia Ohio and J. ? Orr, and Cal. C. Waston, and our son Homer McMillan, all of Cedarville, and the trustees and faculty filled up the center and side of the stage. Rev. Charles Frederick Pass of Cincinnati delivered the class oration. The principle thought he tried to impress on the class was to consecrate, devote and dedicate their life—soul and body to the best and highest good in life. The blessings and privileges we enjoy today is the gift and sacrifices of those who have gone before us. The greatest height that is possible to be attained is through consecration and dedication and devotion to what is best and highest in life—that reaches beyond the present—the speaker said there was a hallowed charm and beauty and brightness and interest in this day that the graduating class that sat before him could never forget but would follow them to their latest days.

“Dr. David McKinney of Cincinnati, President of the College, conferred the diplomas. He said—young men of the graduating class—and my boys—I can not dismiss you without a few words from my heart. You bid your alma mater farewell today. We say farewell. We can no longer direct you or bid you to do this or that. But boys we will follow you with our prayers. We hope however high the position you may attain you will never forget Cedarville College or duty. Consecrate yourselves to God. Live helpful lives. And God will bless and direct you. This was a grand gathering in the Opera House today. If the graduating class can never forget this day I feel sure that some of the rest of us will always remember it. It will always stand out above and over days bright and beautiful. But while I speak of this day, I remember another day that stands bright and beautiful too and towers above the ordinary days of life—that day is the 11th of June 1896. It si a year ago tomorrow since father and I sat in a gathering in Monmouth. The “Commencement Day” in Monmouth College—then another son was counted among the graduates, Fred McMillan. We were happy there. We were happy today. May the remembrance of that day and of this day help and strengthen us through the years. “Commencement Day” not finished but beginning! May all that is good and best and highest and grandest and noblest and holiest in life crown my boys is the prayer of this Mother.”

- July 2. Fannie arrives with her young sons, Donald & Malcolm.
- July 10. Fred arrives from Chicago; Harlan from Springfield—so all the family at the farm at the same time.
- July 29. Fred returns to his work in Chicago.
- August 11. Rev. Thomas MacKenzie [Fannie's husband] arrives from N.Y. and on September 1st with his family (Fannie, Donald, Malcolm) return to Port Jarvis, N.Y.
- September 6. Paul starts 2nd grade at McMillan School. Clayton and Jason return to Selma High School. Hogs sold at Selma for 4 cents a pound.
- September 8. Clara leaves for college at Monmouth.
- September 16. Homer leaves for New York to attend Union Theological Seminary.
- September 20. Fred now located in Bussey, Iowa—working with the Wabash Railroad.
- November 1. First good rain since August 24. Had a killing first on September 21.
- November 12. Threshed wheat out of barn, and the wheat that had been left in ricks in the field. All 20 men that helped were fed dinner and supper.
- December 31. Martha again records where all the family is located.

1898

- January 1. As in the past few years since some of her children are in school or work elsewhere, Martha begins the year by recording where each one is. Also, as has been her custom through the years, she quotes poems or Scripture, or writes her own tribute to the new year.
- April 11. School directors elected; first time women could vote in this district—a Mrs. Barber was elected (Martha remarks “it is high time” women could vote and be elected.)
- April 12. Evidently Jason wouldn't go to school a couples days. Her comment! *[Note: the entry below was not included in the notes]*
 “I was sorry to know that Jason is at home. O if Abraham Lincoln could have had his opportunities for an education how happy he would have been.”
- May 5. Martha went to the W.C.T.U. [Women's Christian Temperance Union] convention in Springfield.
- May 22. The Sunday School she started in school house is now 1 year old.
- May 23. Homer plans to stay in N.Y. and work during the summer.
- June 14. Homer's plans change; comes home.
- July 1. Fannie MacKenzie and sons Donald and Malcolm home.
- July 6. Clara arrives home from Monmouth.
- July 19. Fred arrives for a 4 week visit.
- August 1. Mr. MacKenzie, Fannie, and Harlan leave for a week's trip on Lake Erie.
- August 29. Home with the MacKenzie sons, Donald & Malcolm, leave to meet their parents, Mr. MacKenzie and Fannie, in Cleveland—then on to N.Y. where Homer will stay with the MacKenzies until Seminary opens. (Union Seminary)
- September 5. Clara returns to Monmouth.
- September 15. Clayton enrolls at Cedarville College.
- September 29. Jane (James' sister) is severely burned while lighting a lamp. She was 86 years. On October 4 she died.
- November 12. Tells about “the old rocking chair” that comes back home.
- December 17. Jason has chicken pox.

December 23. Clara home for Christmas vacation.

December 25. Martha comments on her School House Sunday School.

There was no rural mail delivery yet—had to go to Cedarville for mail. There were a few telephones in Cedarville, but not yet on the farm.

1899

January 1. Martha writes poetry that inspires her; then tells who is on the farm and where the others are located.

January 3. Clayton returns to Cedarville College; Clara back to Monmouth.

January 13. Clayton has chicken pox.

May 11. Clayton and Jason go to “Buffalo Bill Show”

June 8. Cedarville College commencement—6 graduates, included Jessie Morton, Belle Winter, Mary Little and 3 others.

June 15. Clara home from Monmouth.

July 8. Fannie and children arrive for summer visit.

[The notes in these brackets were not part of Rankin MacMillan’s. He failed to mention that Martha again went on a trip and turned over the keeping of the diary to Clara while she was away (*the handwriting changes on June 29*). Martha travels to Lyons, Indiana, to visit brother John Murdock and sister Mary. An account of Martha’s visit is in the back of the diary. (*Smaller pages are sewn into the back of the diary dated June 29 to July 26*). Martha resumes her entries in the diary on July 27.]

August 27. Martha’s remarks on keeping of the Sabbath—page 198. [*Note: the entry below was not included in the notes*]

“A man that lost a horse called with his friend for information regarding it when I tried to inform them that this was the Sabbath day and they were on the wrong road. The owner of a lost buggy came to make inquiries. I took occasion to inform him he was off the track too. If he had any business to attend to, to call around tomorrow. No wonder that Jesus commanded the disciples to watch—for Satan is around on every hand.”

September 4. The MacKenzies return to N.Y.

September 5. Jason takes work with surveyor’s crew.

September 18. Clayton and Jason move into Aunt Mary Murdock’s in Cedarville—will attend Cedarville College.

September 23. Martha waits up for Clayton on a Saturday night. [*Note: the entry below was not included in the notes*]

“All are in bed—it is now nearly ten. I have a fire in the grate although I am very tired I have a feeling that it is best that I should sit up and wait for Clayton. Saturday night is the last night of the week a girl or boy should have arrangements to be away from home. It is now after ten. Clayton is home.”

November 23. Clara has a party for her friend.

December 12. Fred home, first time in a year; returned to his work, December 19.

December 23. Homer arrives home—first time since Aug. 1898 (1 1/3 years)

December 25. Homer, Harlan, Clara, Clayton, Jason, Paul home for Christmas.

1900

[Note: the following entry was not included in the notes: Martha comments on the new century:]

“This is the first time I have written 1900 in this book. Since yesterday, we have passed into a new year—and into a new century. How much the century that is gone effects every one of us. Many whose lives have been interwoven into ours have past from off this earth. We can ask ourselves what shall this twentieth century bring to us or even this year bring to us? Let us not wait for the answer but let us seek refuge ‘under the shadow of Him who is the Almighty.’ Ever looking and waiting for His leading and guiding through the years—and with such a leader we know our pathway will ‘grow brighter and brighter’—even ‘unto the perfect day.’”

In 1900—ages of James and Martha McMillan family: James 66 - Martha 56 - daughter Fannie (Francis) 32 - son Fred 30 - son Harlan 28 - son Homer 26 - daughter Clara 24 - son Clayton 20 - son Jason 18 - and son Paul 10.

Martha lists where here children are: Fannie married to the Rev. Thomas MacKenzie with their 2 sons, Donald & Malcolm live inn Port Jarvis, N.Y> Fred has been named commercial agent for the Wabash Railroad and lives in Des Moines, Ia. Harlan in Springfield, O. with the Carson Wholesale Groceries. Clara at home until August when she went to Des Moines with brother Fred and entered Drake College in Sept. Homer was at Brunswick, N. J. Seminary where he graduated in May. In June married Mary Kitchen (from Selma area), then they went to their first pastorate at Bogata, N.Y. Clayton and Jason attend Cedarville College in Winter and Spring. Jason attends again in Sept. 1900—but Clayton remains on the farm. Paul is in the grades at McMillan School..

The pages which tell of these events: Homer’s marriage to Mary Kitchen on page 139. *[Note: the entry below was not included in the notes]*

12 June. Tuesday. A beautiful day indeed. Mr. Mc and Homer were taken to Cedarville to the early train by Clayton for Columbus. This was the morning of his wedding. He and Mary Kitchen were married by [blank] at her brothers Dr. ?—and left on the through train for Bogota, N.Y. It has been a day of days to me. What my experience has been and was, has not been written. It was a sad farewell—yet happy farewell when I parted with Homer. In spite of all I can not but regret to day I was not at the wedding with Mr. Mc and Clara. I wonder if I was really guided—if I thought I had been I would be satisfied. I remember reading that we go on in our life, all of us, not conscious of any constraint upon us, or any directing of our steps, our wills being free; yet we are walking evermore in paths marked out in the divine plan for our life. To get away from this feeling of sadness and regret I went to town—I took dinner with Aunt Mary at Aunt Bells—and this afternoon Aunt Bell and I helped her close her house and we took her up to the train in the mean time however we attended the funeral service of Mr Crawford Stormont at Dr. Martins at one o’clock.... Jason and Paul went to the half past eight train to Ced—and brought their father out.... When Mr. Mc brought the flowers and box of wedding cake—my tears flowed freely when I remembered most keenly ‘that lost of ? have no resurrection.’ I am so sad that I must turn away from my self—to where comfort is found—after all my disappointment I can only blame my self.”

Pages 152-159 are kept by Clara for her mother Martha who with her husband James went to visit Fred in Kansas City June 29 to July 10. *[Martha’s account of this visit is located in the back of the diary]*

Page 213 - Clara enters Drake University, Des Moines.

Page 233 - October 22nd. Estell and Wilson of Clifton start a new barn. On page 240—it tells of the “barn raising” on November 30. Fifty people came to see it and were there for supper. They were invited, a “barn raising” was a social event.

1901

[Note: No journal for this year was included in the MacMillan gift to the Cedarville University Archives]

1902

As is her custom, Martha begins the year in a poetical, prayerful way, asking God to lead each step of the way. Then she tells where each of their children is located: Fannie and husband and children in Port Jarvis, N.Y.—Fred at his railroad work in Des Moines, Ia.—Harlan in Missouri for Minneapolis flour mill—Homer and wife left his pastorate in New Jersey die to ill health and went to El Paso, Texas for a better climate and cure. Clara at Drake College, Des Moines, spending holidays with relatives in Kansas City—Jason at Cedarville College—Paul in local school—Clayton at home assisting his father.

January 11. Dinner part at Uncle Hugh Murdock’s, 26 guests.

January 12. She notes 18 pupils attending the afternoon Sabbath school in the McMillan school house.

January 15. Their 35th wedding anniversary.

March 2. Comments on school house Sabbath school

March 17. A telephone installed.

March 26. Comments on Jason going to work in Dayton, O.

April 15. Telegraph poles and lines being erected.

May 12. “We are bounded on all sides with care and work.”

May 22. Fred visits Jason at Dayton; arranges for him to come home.

May 25. 5th anniversary of her school house Sabbath school.

June 10. Trip to Des Moines—Clara graduates from Drake Un.—Clara takes a job at Drake, assistant teacher. *[The responsibility for keeping the diary was turned over to Paul from June 11 to July 31. Martha’s account of the trip to Des Moines, Iowa and other points in between during that period is located in the back of the diary.]*

August 26. Foundation laid for tenant house.

August 28. Last meeting in old church (N. Main St.-- became a gym for the College and now the drama center) *[This references the donation by William Alford in 1902 of what is now known as Alford Auditorium to Cedarville College in memory of his father John. The building was first a gymnasium for the College; then in the early 1960's it was converted to an auditorium, finally becoming a drama theater in the mid-1970's]*

August 31. She reports Dr. Morton’s last sermon in the old church.

September 1. Jason leaves for Tarkio College (?) In Missouri.

September 7. First service in new church (new Grace Baptist since 1961 or ‘62) *[This building was purchased by Grace Baptist Church (organized in 1954) and is still a part of the Grace Baptist Church complex today]*

- September 8. Clara leaves for new teaching position at Burleson College, Greenville, Texas.
 September 28. James' brother Dan, on neighboring farm, dies.
 October 14. New tenant house completed.
 December. Clara, Jason, Harlan home for Christmas. Homer and Mary have moved to So. Carolina where he is preaching (health improved).
 December 31. Jason will return to Tarkio (?), Mo. and Clayton goes with him to attend Business College there. Harlan returns to work in Iowa for the Washburn & Crosby Co.

1903

- January 1. Martha tells where she and Mr. Mc, as she calls her husband, have spent the day—and in the evening as they sit nearby alone lists where the family is: Fannie at Port Jarvis, N.Y. - Fred in Des Moines, Ia. - Harlan is also at Des Moines - Home at Lowndesville, N.C. - Clara at Burleson College, Texas - Clayton and Jason to Tarkio College, Missouri; Paul at local school. Also names the first tenants in the new tenant house, and names the “house servants.”
- March 5. Describes a dinner party—cousin Helen McMillan's going to Monmouth.
 March 13. Neighbors' farewell party for Will McMillan's going to Monmouth.
 April 3. Homer and Mary come for a visit before going on to California.
 April 28. James and Martha leave for trip to So. Carolina, Tenn. & Michigan. *[Note: The responsibility for keeping the diary was turned over to Paul from April 29 to June 12. Martha's account of this trip is located in the back of the diary.]*
- May 31. Dr. Morton died (pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian Church *[in Cedarville]*)
 June 13. James and Martha return from their trip (trip described in back of this book, p. 303)
 June 22. Jason home from Tarkio.
 July 2. The MacKenzies arrive for summer visit.
 July 11. Clara arrives home.
 July 28. Cousin Anabel Murdock visits.
 August. Homer arrives from California. Fred and Harlan from Des Moines.
 September 1. Professor Jurkat *[Cedarville College]* and Alice Bromegan were married last week.
 September 3. Clayton and Jason leave for Greely, Colorado to visit Rankin sisters (whom they met at Tarkio College). Jason will return to Tarkio for fall term.
 September 7. Fred and Harlan return to Des Moines.
 September 9. MacKenzies return home.
 September 10. Homer leaves for Columbus and later for California.
 September 30. Clayton returns from western trip.
 October 8. Clara leaves for Philadelphia, Pa., to enter National School of Oratory.
 December 17. James and Martha and son Paul leave for a visit to California at Homer's While in Columbus Mary *[Homer's wife]* had her first baby (Richard) in August, and when Homer left in September for their home now in Calif. Mary was not able to go—now she is returning along with James and Martha *[Note: The responsibility for keeping the diary was turned over to Aunt Mary from December 18, 1903 to July 21, 1904.]* The California trip of James and Martha is written up in a separate volume—it was from Dec. 13, 1903 to July 21, 1904.

1904

James and Martha with son Paul went to California Dec. 18, 1903 to be with son Homer and his wife Mary. They did not return to the farm until July 21, 1904. [*Note: The California trip of James and Martha is described by Martha in a separate diary volume.*] During this period Cousin Mary Murdock and Mr. Charles Baskin moved out to the farm [*from Cedarville*].

Between them they kept the diary up to date. Clayton was in charge of the farm operation and seemed to do a very good job. It is likely that older son Fred planned his parents extended stay in California, so that Clayton could prove his “wings” were strong enough to “fly” (to operate farm). The diary notes the day to day work on the farm—and the weather, during this time.

May 2. The Reformed Presbyterian Church congregational meeting to discuss and vote on union with the United Presbyterian. Motion tabled indefinitely.

June 15. Mary’s remarks about two Mormon missionaries (page 72).

July 21. James and Martha and son Paul return from California visit.

August 4. The MacKenzies arrive.

August 8. Homer, Mary & son arrive [*from California*].

August 13. Jason arrived home, having been in Des Moines from Tarkio. Been away 11 months.

August 20. Fred and Harlan arrive from Des Moines. This made all of the family home for about 10 days.

September 5. Clayton and Jason leave for Tarkio College.

September 8. The MacKenzies return to New York.

September 13. A. B. Henry installed as pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. Charles Baskin and son Paul enroll at Cedarville College.

September 15. Clara left for Des Moines. She and Fred will attend World’s Fair at St. Louis, then she will return to her school in Philadelphia.

September 16. Homer and Mary leave for Columbus where a Dr. Hunt will operate on Homer’s bad lung.

October 11. They [*Homer and Mary*] return to the farm.

December 1. Homer and Mary & baby Richard leave for a new work in Buford, Ga.

December 20. Chas. Baskin goes home to So. Carolina for Christmas.

December 21. Clayton home from Tarkio—Jason went to Greeley, Colorado (to see Rankin sisters.)

1905

January 2. Murdock family dinner party - 25 present.

January 10. Charlie Baskin returns from So. Carolina—he and Paul in Cedarville College.

January 12. Clayton returns to Tarkio College.

February 10. Fannie MacKenzie visits Clara in Philadelphia.

February 14. Harlan starts a new work with same company but in St. Louis.

March 10. Jason wins oratory contest at Tarkio.

March 13. Dinner party at Silas Murdock’s - 45 guests.

March 27. Clayton sick with mumps.

May 4-5. Jason represents Missouri colleges in oratory contest at Monmouth, Il.

June 6. James and Martha at Tarkio for Jason's graduation and Clayton's graduation from the Business dept. of Tarkio. Martha meets and likes the Rankin sisters. *[Note: The responsibility for keeping the diary was turned over to Paul and Charlie Baskin from June 7 to July 8. Martha's account of the trip is located in the back of the diary.]*

August. At various dates all the family arrive home again.

September 4. Clayton and Jason depart for Greely, Colorado to visit Rankin sisters.

September 6. The MacKenzies take a new church at Flushing, Long Island, N.Y.

September 8. A daughter (Ruth) born to Homer and Mary.

September 12. Chas. Baskin and Paul return to Cedarville College. Jason & Clayton return home from Colorado.

September 27. Jason leaves for Hartford, Conn. to enter seminary.

November 14. Clara at home begins supervising redecoration—and new hardwood floors downstairs.

November 21. Clayton leaves for visit to Des Moines and Tarkio.

December 1. A man from Cincinnati comes to measure house for a coal furnace.

December 8. Clayton returns home. House improvements going along each day—new shingles on roof—new stairway to upstairs—digging basement room for the new furnace.

December 24. Fred and Harlan home for Christmas, leave the next day.

As the year ends, the house is torn up. The carpenters cannot finish till all the furnace and pipes are installed. Clara had started on a small re-decorating project in November and is now a major "overhaul."

1906

January 1. Martha records, as usual, thoughts for the new year—then notes where their children are now: Fannie and family at Flushing N.Y. pastorate; Fred still at Des Moines, had a promotion in his work with the Wabash R.R.; Harlan in St. Louis, Mo.; Clara at home planning the improvements in the house; Paul is with Homer and Mary in Buford, Ga. Jason at Hartford Seminary, Conn.

February 2. The new furnace is used for the first time.

February 14. Harlan marries Isabella Smith of Springfield (she is a talented violinist and vocalist.)

April 1. Jason preached his first sermon at Hartford, Conn. Presbyterian Church.

April 10. Harlan and Isabella in their new home in St. Louis, Missouri.

April 18. Summer eating porch built by carpenters from Clifton.

April 19. Finished putting in the new bathroom.

April 24. Milton Bratton moved into the tenant house.

June. The house renovation which started in November 1905 was finally finished in June 1906.

June 29. Homer and Mary and children, Richard and Ruth, arrive.

July 10. Fannie with sons Donald & Malcolm arrive.

August 1. Husband Tom [MacKenzie] arrives.

August 16. Jason arrives

August 18. Fred, Harlan and Isabel arrive.

September 4. Most of the guests have returned home. Clayton and Jason leave for a visit to Greely, Colorado (to see Rankin sisters.)

- September 12. Homer begins work as Home Mission Secretary for the Southern Presbyterian Church.
- October 5. James and Martha left for St. Louis to visit Harlan's, then went on to Kirksville, Mo. for treatment at the Osteopathic Institute. They do not return home till June 13, 1907. This trip is recorded in a separate book also marked 1906. *[Note: Martha says in the diary that she will "leave this book in other hands until our return. I will hope that I will see an acct for every day." She does not mention who will be responsible.]*
- October 30. Get ready for a farm sale.
- October 31. The sale—24 high bred trotting horses—194 sheep—74 hogs—9 cattle—and farm equipment.
- November 4. First time for individual communion cups in place of using a common cup at communion service.
- November 9 Clara leaves for St. Louis.
- December 7. A daughter (Jeannette) is born to Harlan and Isabella in St. Louis.

1907

[Note: at the beginning of this new year, James and Martha are still in Kirksville, Mo. and will not return until June 25th. "Other hands" are providing the daily accounts in the diary until then.]

- January 1. James and Martha still at Kirksville, Mo. undergoing osteopathic treatment. At the farm a Mrs. Williams is housekeeper and cook. Clayton, Paul, Charles Baskin and O. M. Potter of Iowa at the farm. Paul and Charles attending College; O. M. Potter is writing the diary.
- January 3. Sold sheep that remained after Oct. sale—first time in 49 years that there are no sheep on farm—planning to rent farm as oldest brother Fred wants Clayton who has been operating farm to try a business job away from the farm (to be sure of what he wants to do)!
- April 4. Clayton leaves for work in New York.
- March 25. Paul took over diary writing.
- June 3. Charles Baskin has lead in *[Cedarville]* College senior class play.
- June 4. Jason goes to England on a summer tour.
- June 6. Cedarville College commencement—Baskin receives A.B. degree.
- June 25. James and Martha return to the farm *[Martha again takes up responsibility for the diary after about 8 months away]*; Homer, Mary and Clara also arrive. Homer and Mary stay about a week—then to Columbus to visit.
- July 22. Isabella and baby Jeannette arrive.
- August 2. Clayton returns from New York.
- August 5. Homer and Mary and children return.
- August 26. Harlan arrives, then on the 28th returns with Isabella and baby to their home in St. Louis.
- September 8. Jason arrives home from his tour of England, Scotland, and Ireland.
- September 12. Mrs. Williams gives up her work as cook, due to illness—has been here for 7 years.
- September 16. Clayton and Jason leave for Greely, Colorado visit.
- September 23. Homer, Mary and children return to Georgia.

- September 28. Clayton returns from Colorado; Jason returns and goes on to Princeton Seminary.
- October 24. Fred in for 2 days—he has resigned his position with the Wabash R.R. and is now manager of the Des Moines and Iowa Falls Railroad.
- November 8. Clayton and Paul leave for St. Louis and Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- December 21. Rev. Mills Taylor is called as new pastor of Cedarville Reformed Presbyterian Church.
- December 24. Clayton returns from New Mexico; Paul remains there for his health (lung trouble).
- December 25. Jason gets home for Christmas.

1908

- January 6. Jason returns to Princeton Seminary.
- January 14. Death of John Murdock (Martha's brother). *[Note: the following entry was not included in the notes]*
- “Uncle John Murdock passed away very suddenly this morning. He seemed to rest well last night. At six o'clock when he turned over in his bed, Aunt Mary noticed there was something wrong. She went to the nearest neighbor and called them to come, Mr. Daniel Dean, but when she got back he was about gone, and passed quietly away almost immediately to awaken up in heaven to change his rags of earth for the beautiful robe of heaven—how glorious. It is the ones who are left that are the lonely ones.”
- January 26. Martha's birthday—64 years old.
- February 2. The furnace is frozen—had to order repairs from Boston.
- February 8. Oldest daughter Fannie is 40 years old.
- February 11. Furnace repaired and working again.
- March 3. Clara leaves for Chicago, St. Louis and Texas. She has been at the farm since June 1907 and most of the time was cook and housekeeper.
- April 14-15. Homer in for a short visit; had been ill and off work since December with recurrence of his lung problems.
- May 19. Paul returns to New Mexico—on June 10 goes to Des Moines to be with Fred.
- June 23. Clara returns home
- July 5. Mills Taylor began pastorate *[at Cedarville Reformed Presbyterian Church]*.
- July 6. Clayton leaves for Greeley, Colorado to visit Edith Rankin—Jason will join to visit Nelle Rankin.
- July 28. Rev. T. H. MacKenzie and Fannie, Donald & Malcolm, arrive.
- August. All the family get home at different times and stay various lengths of time.
- September 3-4. Jason & Fannie and boys leave for N. Y.
- September 28. After 5 years at Cedarville, Chas. Baskin leaves for medical school at Ann Arbor, Mich.
- October 22. Clayton and Clara leave for Des Moines to meet Jason there, then on to Greeley, Colorado where a double wedding is to take place on October 29. Clayton marries Edith Rankin and Jason marries Nelle Rankin, Oct. 29, 1908. *[Note: the following entry from October 29th was not included in the notes]*
- “Father and I here alone. Our thoughts and hearts are “over the hills” and far away at Greeley—as we watch the []. The hour for the wedding is here. How much we would love to be there—but that was impossible—as I would not have been equal to the undertaking.

“How strange to think that these boys and girls have indeed left the Old Home Nest to go out to make homes for themselves—where they will work out the great problem of their lives. May they never lose sight of their great accountability. ‘For it is not all of life to live or all of death to die.’”

November 10. Clara returns from Chicago. James and Martha move to a furnished house in Yellow Springs (Clayton and Edith are to be in the farm house.)

The remainder of 1908 [*diary entries*] is in the 1909 diary. (See the 1909—for 1908 from Nov. 10 on thru Dec. 31—return of the newlyweds—Clayton & Edith to the farm, etc.) [*Note: the following entry was not included in the notes*]

“This afternoon the order was for us to leave the old and depart to our new house at the Yellow Springs. It was the farthest from our plans for we really felt we were of such importance the old plantation could not run without us but when we arose and obeyed the call, this feeling vanished. Mr. Mc. And I came in our own conveyance out and Walter Murdock and Clara come on the Express with our trunks. We were not long here until the fires were burning brightly and such a nice supper on the table. The house is furnished nicely and everything is in perfect order when we stepped in. Now since we are here and the old home left the change seems so sudden. I wonder if this is not something like the change will be when we leave here (this world), and go to that home across Jordan. I mean in point of suddenness, but not in brightness—and in glory and in triumph—never. I have kept this book through all the days and months and years since January fifteenth 1867—41 years—10 months and four days. The happenings of our family at the old home on the Pike near Cedarville Ohio. Many have been the changes in that time as family have come and gone and tonight are scattered here and there—far and near—May we not hope and pray—that in the evening we may all be gathered home into that glorious and beautiful city of God.

“Now this is the end—the book is closed—forever and it came sooner than I thought—‘Where the tree of life is blooming meet me there.’ Farewell forever.” [*With these words on November 10, Martha ends the entries in this book, representative of the closing of their years on the farm. She begins a new book as they take up housekeeping in their new home in Yellow Springs.*]

1908/1909

[*November 10th entry - “While one book is closed another is opened.” Martha starts a new book in their new home.*]

November 10. Martha writes that she and James have moved to “cozy” home in Yellow Springs—that Clayton and Edith will return to the home place to take up the work that they “have laid down”—that Jason and Nelle will be with them on the farm for a short time before going to their work in the East.

November 11. The newly-weds arrive at the farm.

November 13. Thirty young people come in to greet the new brides.

November 15. Rev. Mills Taylor has Jason preach.

November 19. Jason and Nelle leave for Oyster Bay, N.Y.

November 11-24. James and Martha were back at the farm, then they and Clara returned to Yellow Springs.

November 26. Thanksgiving Day, Clayton and Edith come to Yellow Springs for dinner.

December 16. Word received that Jason had an appendicitis operation on 13th.

- December 25. Martha comments on their leaving the farm—it was right to let Clayton and Edith make their own home—Jesus would guide.
- January 5-8. Martha ill
- January 25. Martha to Dr. Hunts hospital in Columbus.
- January 26. Martha's 65th birthday.
- January 29. Fred elected V.Pres. And General manager of St. Paul-Des Moines Railroad.
- March 3. After 5 weeks at Dr. Hunts hospital, he recommends that Martha finish the winter in Florida. Clara goes with her—arrival at Winter Park, Fla. March 5.
- March 5 to 21. In Winter Park.
- March 22 - April 20 - in Daytona Beach.
- April 20 - 27. St. Augustine. *[During her illness and time in Florida, Martha maintains the diary every day]*
- April 28. Martha and Clara go to Atlanta to be with Homer and Mary for a while.
- June 13. 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. He has not been well—diagnosed as hardening of the arteries—he will slowly get worse.
- July 1. Martha decides to turn her Sunday afternoon Sunday school over to the Hendersons. She had started it in 1897.
- August. All the family come home again, especially to see their father, James, as the doctors think he will not live long! (He lived 3 years!). Also, in August Paul's lung trouble returned—could not transfer to Tarkio, Mo. College as planned.
- September 16. A gasoline engine installed in basement to pump cistern water.
- September 25. Good friend, Charles Baskin visits before returning to U. Michigan Medical School.
- September 20 - October 14. Jason and Nelle visit before returning to pastoral work in Oyster Bay, N.Y.
- December 23. Edith goes to Greely, Colorado to visit her folks.

1910

- January 1. Those residing at the farm as 1910 begins: James and Martha; Clayton and Edith; Paul and his nurse—a Mrs. Brown from Columbus; also, an Albert Harris and O. N. Potter live with the family, helping on the farm, and Anna—helping in the house.
- January 15. James and Martha's anniversary—Martha comments on how things are changed.
[Note: the following entry was not included in the notes]

“We do not forget this evening that this is the Anniversary of our marriage day—1867—1910—How many years did I say! Well everything has changed so much since then—so changed you can hardly think it is the same old world. Those who were the young folks then are the old gray heads of today. The years have passed so swiftly that we were not aware how quickly they were going—And it is only by looking back that we can tell their number—and yet we are here and are ‘immortal until our work is done.’ That is a beautiful thought but sweet to know that it is true.”

- February 3-11. Fannie MacKenzie visits from N.Y.
- March 2. Homer arrives for short visit.
- March 4. A Roy Davis and family moves into tenant house to help on farm. (Note: Davis stayed till 1920!). Edith returns from her long visit to her folks in Colorado.

- March 19. Fred comes for visit, arranges to take Paul to Dr. Hunt's hospital in Columbus, Nurse Brown goes with him.
- March 29. Clara returns home, having been at brother Homer's in Atlanta since Oct. 15 **[1909?]**
- April 17. Sabbath school at school house in charge of the Hendersons.
- April 29. Potter took Mary Murdock to Xenia to a Sunday baseball game for the purpose of protesting and stopping Sunday baseball.
- May 13. Moved Paul to Asheville, N.Carolina, hoping mountain air would help cure his tuberculosis.
- May 26-30. Paul's death and funeral **[Paul was 20 years old in April]**, and Martha's comments showing her great Christian faith.**[Note: the entries from May 25 to 30 detail the story of Paul's rapid physical decline after initial good reports prior to May 25, his eventual death on May 25th, and the funeral on May 30th. Paul died on Wednesday night, May 25th, at 5 minutes to 12 o'clock. Martha and the family were informed on May 26th by telegram from Homer that "Paul is dying." Paul's body, accompanied by Clara, Homer, and Miss Brown (the nurse), came by train on May 27th]**
- June 5. Fred arrives by train on Sunday morning—Martha comments!
- June 29. Oldest grandson, Donald MacKenzie, graduates from Flushing, N.Y. high school.
- August 17. Sunday baseball trial at Xenia.
- August 26. Well drillers began driving a well near back porch.
- I did not try to note all the comings and goings of this family, needless to say, all year long there were always extra people to feed. Friends and relatives would stop in most any time, but usually about ½ hour before meal time. However, this was a custom of the times, and I guess, was more or less expected. Rankin MacMillan.

1911

Martha greets the new year as usual with a poem of faith. Then she comments on their loss of youngest son, Paul, while missing him she knows she will meet him again in our heavenly home. Many entries in this year state that Mr. Mc (as she called her husband James) remained in bed most of the day. They have a night nurse for him.

As she has often done, she gives the text of the sermons she hears on the Sabbath day.

As we read, we note that Clayton has again been raising sheep—as on April 1 she notes that Clayton bought some sheep to add to his flock.

Her house helper in this year is Henrietta—with friends and relatives constantly coming in—help was essential.

May 14. She states that Clayton, Edith, Homer & Clara went to church while Fannie stayed with James. Then she gives Rev. Taylor's sermon subject. Then she tells who all came to call in the afternoon, and comments they should read the last verses of Isaiah, chap. 58—to find a better way to spend the Sabbath!

June 4. She tells that Edith put the Sabbath dinner in the "fireless cooker," then she, Clayton, Jason & Nelle went to church. Jason and Nelle now have their first child—Theresa—on June 3rd; Martha says she is such a sweet good baby.

June 17. She writes that Jason & Nelle and Theresa say goodbye—and now it's lonely, especially missing baby Theresa.

The farm and household activities go on routinely. They do not have a yet–seem to use a carriage with 2 horses.

October 23. Martha and James plan to move into Cedarville to Mary Murdock’s for the winter.

November 16. Martha writes “Clayton and Edith received a son into their family–his name John Rankin” (after Edith’s father) and he will be called Rankin. [*Note: John Rankin MacMillan is the author of these notes*]

December 11. She writes that Clayton and Edith brought Rankin into town to see them; she was happy to see such a bright boy!

December 30. Rankin was left with her as Clayton and Edith visited Prof. McChesney’s.

1912

As the year 1912 began Martha and James were staying in Cedarville with Mary Murdock. As Martha says she didn’t realize till the evening of the New Years day that the old year was really gone.

January 9. Martha said she felt better, the distressing pain had quieted and she could turn in bed and have peace. She adds that Mr. Mc (James) is in bed most of the day.

January 21. She is helped downstairs–she says she is gradually trying to get back to her old life–before she was sick; she also tells that Mrs. McChesney sent in a lovely dinner.

January 26. Clayton takes hogs to market. There she says–Clayton has come out on the right side and took the 10th of his money and placed it on his acc’t book for the Lord.

February 7. One of Clayton’s horses fell on the ice and broke its neck.

April 19. Clayton and Edith take John Rankin to church to be baptized.

May 3. She mentions friends who went to Cedar Day at the College; says they report the exercises were fine; had a dinner in Alford Memorial [*Gymnasium*]

May 18. She reports that Clayton buys an automobile–and says it will be a new experience for Clayton. [*Martha makes no reference to the company name of the auto*]

May 24. Reports first trouble with the automobile.

June 3. The automobile gets repaired.

June 7. More automobile trouble–then tire trouble–then ran out of gas!

June 19. Car has been used several times all O.K.–this day had “lamps” put on. (Many entries during summer on car–and its troubles) (Many times she notes that Mr. Mc spends the day on the “rester” –a couch)

October 8. Martha’s entry begins saying it’s a nice day–and reports all the activities. Then in the evening a change came over father (James) breath so short; evident a change was near. At nine o’clock he peacefully passed away. (read her comments–page 226-227) [*Note: the following entry was not included in the notes*]

“This evening a change came very suddenly to father–breath so short and quick–it was evident a change was near. He peacefully passed away near nine o’clock. Death never appeared to me as it did tonight–you could almost see this world receding and the other world so near that it seemed but a step across. As he neared the end we all noticed the peace and calmness that came over his face. O the nothingness of the honors and glory of this world when we come to meet death. What do the dying need: Only Jesus–only Jesus. ‘For he can make the dying bed seem soft as downey pillows are. While on his breast I lay my head and breath my life out sweetly then.’ Let us take Jesus for our all and all and live to help others to find him. Father has

had four long years of a mental trouble—but all that has passed now—for he has seen him—and will be like him, is our comfort.”

October 12. The funeral.

October 17. Edith and little Rankin go to Tarkio, *[Missouri]*. They return on Nov. 21.

December 25. She was able to come downstairs for Christmas dinner and evening supper.

1913

January 1. Martha writes a long quote from here pastor son's (Jason's) church bulletin.

January 11. Clayton and Edith went to Columbus to visit Clara—and to a Billy Sunday meeting—and to Gov. Cox inaugural.

January 13. Churches are closed due to a diphtheria scare.

February 3. Farmer's Institute—Clayton is president.

February 26. Little Rankin keeps “watching door” to get outside.

March 5. 5000 women's suffragists in Wash. D.C.

March 26-29. Heavy rains—Dayton flooded (The Big Flood of 1913).

April 27. Do not encourage Sabbath calling and visiting!

May 1-2. Harlan and Homer in for short visit.

May 3. Clara home for week-end.

May 30. Decoration Day—decorating graves of family members (page 102)

June 6. Raymond Williamson graduated from Cedarville College. Homer elected to Cedarville College Board of Trustees.

June 13. Edith's mother (Mrs. John Rankin) and sister Mabel & 2 daughters arrive.

June 14. Miss Benline (cook and beloved housekeeper) kicked by a horse.

June 18. Car trouble.

June 19. Nellie (Jason's wife) and baby Theresa arrive.

June 25. Edith's father (John Rankin) arrives from Tarkio *[Missouri]*.

July 1. The Rankins leave for home (Tarkio)

July 4. Fred and Charles Baskin arrive (Baskin became a skin specialist doctor).

July 9. Martha's ailments more pronounced [*a later obituary called it rheumatism*]—so she with Miss Benline go to Kenton, O. to see a specialist there.

July 10-August 5. Martha receives 22 treatments by this doctor.

August 5. Martha makes her last entry [*in the journal*] (still at Kenton). *Note: the following entry was not included in the notes*

“5. Aug. Tuesday, This has been an ideal day. The Dr. La[] here and gave me my 22 treatment. Mary and the children making the most of the day with us. At four o'clock she left for Columbus—they will get to Sister Hunts about seven o'clock. Miss Nadie still in bed.”

August 12. **Martha dies on Tuesday morning Aug. 12, 1913**

(The last 4 pages written by another describes the final illness and funeral. Dr. McChesney presided.) [*Note: the following and final journal entries were not included in the notes. The person making these final entries is not identified*]

“ The above is the last entry [*August 5*] made by the hand of her who for the last 46 years has wielded the pen in chronicling day by day the leading events in the home as well as the important happenings in the community.

“But as it required another to compile the story of Moses in the Pentateuch so a different pen must finish the record of that noble life which so quietly slipped thru the veil into the Father’s mansion Tuesday morning Aug. 12, 1913.

“Tuesday evening after Mary and the children left Mother began to complain of a severe pain in her side. The doctor was called and gave her some relief from the pain, but she began to vomit.

“Wed. the 6th No improvement; vomiting still continued but without any strain.

“Thursday the 7th was but a repetition of Wednesday’s experience. Miss Tyson wrote to Clara informing her of her Mother’s condition but for some reason she did not get the letter till Saturday morning.

“Friday the 8th While the vomiting continued Mother was still cheerful and hopeful. She took light nourishment every day.

“Sat. the 9th The day passed much the same as the previous ones. In the evening Clara came. The first proposal was to have another physician but Mother objected on the ground she had made so much improvement already. She felt it was best to continue on as she was doing.

“Sab the 10th The vomiting ceased and all were encouraged. The feeling was that vomiting relieved the system of so much poison her recovery would be hastened. Clara felt obliged to return to Columbus that evening.

“Mon. the 11th She continued to take here nourishment regularly, and everything seemed hopeful. However in the evening she became restless which continued till about 1 o’clock. From that hour till 4 she slept, apparently comfortably. When she awoke she took her nourishment and expressed herself as enjoy it.

“But not long after Miss Berline observed a change in her countenance and called Miss Tyson. The doctor was called immediately and a message sent to Clara. Other physicians were summoned, but all were too late. About 8 o’clock and before Clara arrived according to His promise the Savior came and received her to Himself. Neighbors and friends were thoughtful and kind. The doctor was unabated in her attentions, but her hour had come and no human power could retain her.

“Preparations were begun at once for the removal of the body to Cedarville.

“A message was sent to Fred and thru him to the other members of the family.

“The anxious and sorrowing group awaiting it’s arrival at the old homestead were Clayton Edith, Homer’s Mary and children and Aunt Mary. The train was expected at 10.45. When it failed to appear at that hour every other passing one was carefully inspected until the one in which all our interests for the time were centered came into sight. The moments passed slowly until 12.30 when the precious body was once more brought into the home for a short stay. James Little, Walter and Ralph Murdock assisted J. W. McMillan the undertaker. Clara Miss Tyson and Miss Berline came from Kenton.

“Fred arrived Wednesday morning. Thursday morning Harlan Isabel Donald & Malcolm came. In the afternoon Mr. MacKenzie Fannie and Homer came. In the evening Charles Baskin came from S. C. The first message having failed to reach Jason he did not arrive till Friday morning.

“Wednesday Thursday and Friday a number of relatives and friends called.

“Rev. Taylor having gone to his new charge at Monmouth we were without a pastor. A telegram was sent to Prof. McChesney who was completing his summer’s work at Wooster. He replied in the affirmative.

“The funeral services were held at ten o’clock Saturday. Many beautiful floral designs came from a large number of sympathizing and appreciative friends. The face had a youthful appearance with no indication of the cares and sufferings of past years.

“Prof. McChesney’s services were appropriate beautiful and comforting. She was tenderly laid away in the cemetery to await the day when the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall rise.

“The home-coming at this season of the year was an event to which she always looked forward with much pleasure. On this occasion, all children and grand-children with the exception of Nellie and her children, were present.

“May we not indulge in the hope that she is still looking forward to another and more blessed homecoming when all including those already there will constitute an unbroken circle with non separations?

“The precious letters of condolence which have come in from so may quarters go to show that she was not only loved and appreciated by her own family but by many others who had the privilege of knowing her.”

[Thus ends the journals!]

