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Complete Transcription of the June 4-17, 1896, Journal of the Trip to Monmouth College

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Transcription
Monmouth, Illinois Trip
Graduation of son Fred from Monmouth College
June 4-17, 1896

[**Transcriber Note:** The regular Journal during this period was completed by daughter Clara; see the 1896 Journal]

4" June. Thursday 1896. At Prof McWilliams Monmouth Ill On yesterday noon – Clayton and Jason brought father and me up to Springfield. We left Fannie and her children and Clara and Aunt Sidney to look after the house keeping – “her children not included in that – the house keeping” Father called at [illegible] for his suit and then we took supper with Harlan at his boardinghouse – and good supper it was. Clayton and Jason took their supper at a lunch table – Harlan & Clayton and Jason went with us to the six O'clock train – we bid them good by & left for Monmouth We traveled all night – we reached Peoria at seven Stayed there an hour – had our lunch with plenty of good coffee. After we had eaten we had a nice lunch of chicken of bread & butter left – I said this must not be lost – I noticed a lonely looking woman that sat and watched us take our break fast – I went to her and said I had a nice lunch to dispose of – she said do you not want it – she said I have been here since eleven last night without any thing to eat – I said yes you can have it & welcome. We reached here near eleven Fred came with us in the hack – we were most cordially rec'd by the Prof & his wife. Miss Grace Woodburn, Mrs MacShister and a nephew board with them After dinner Fred & Mr Mc took a walk up town – I retired for a rest at half past two and remained until five a resting. This Eve Fred here for tea – he attended the Sr party at Dr McMichels to night. Dr Wade called and took father riding Prof McMillan [?] have a lovely home – a beautiful location – just opposite the College – I sat & looked at that building & the grounds I was carried back in thought to Fannies first going there in 86" – then to Freds going in 88" & Homers going in 92: What these years were to them – and what they were to those of us who remained at home – What these years were eternity alone will tell. Mr R. T. Miller & Miss Prof Stuart [?] called to day.

5" June Friday – Most a lovely morning – The day bright & warm – Fred brought three of his College friends in to call on father and me this morning. I have been in the Prof study all morning writing. He has a lovely library – everything comfortable. This afternoon Fred brought Miss Patterson in to call on us – after that Mr Mc and the Prof walked out to the base ball game. In due time Fred brought a carriage and took Mrs Prof and I to call on Mother Thompson he has boarded there or roomed there ever since he came to College. After that he took me to Mrs Hollingsworth where he has taken his meals for the last three years. He took Mrs Prof home and drive to the base ball grounds for father and he came to Mrs Hollingsworth and we remained there for tea. They have six students to boarding there – It is certainly a very pleasant place – The young lady is an artist – After tea she and Mother took father and I out in their carriage and we had a drive over Monmouth It is certainly a beautiful town We stopped

off at Prof Mcs in time to go to the College to the Philo Diploma exercises. The meeting was nice. We certainly felt proud of Fred as he marched up the aisle with the Philo graduates – to rec his diploma – It was certainly a grand hour in his life and ours. [Illegible] from Chicago, a lawyer, gave the address. We did not get home until late. The Xenia paper came to day that says Mr Isaac Kitchen of Selma is dead. His funeral to day. His remains to be layed away in the Springfield cemetery. Mrs Hamilton & daughter called but I was not here to see them.

6" June. Sat. This has certainly been a warm morning. Mr Mc and I having an easy time visiting and resting. The Prof busy with his College work all morning. Mrs Mc chatting. We rec'd a letter from Homer last night – He says they were getting along all right – He said Fannie said Jason was an angel. We are happy to hear such a report. This afternoon Mr Saml Hamilton called. Fred called and took Mr Mc to the barbers and to the bath room – Mrs Mc & Sister started out to make calls but came back through a shower. It is much cooler since the rain Mr Mc and I took tea at Mr Hamiltons They have a very pleasant family. We had a very pleasant evening there. We came back and went with the Prof & Mrs Mc and Miss Woodburn to the [Blank space] Diploma Society or meeting at the College Chapel – Mrs. Rev Turnbull of Argyle [?] N. Y. gave a Motherly talk to the girls – A methodist minister addressed the young men of the Society.

7" June Sabb. A lovely Sabbath day after the rain In the morning we attended Dr Hanna's church. He had a fine sermon on the seven fold graces of the Spirit – "Add to your faith virtue and to virtue knowledge and to knowledge temperance and temperance patience and to patience brother kindness and to brotherly kindness charity." Now I do not know whether that was the seven fold graces of faith or of the Christian life or just how to express it correctly. The Prof waited for the Sabbath School and taught a class there At one Oclock we had a lovely Sabbath dinner all of which was prepared on yesterday. At three Oclock we went to the College Chapel and Dr McMichals sermon. The Senior Class all again appeared in a body. Text "not by might or by power but by my Spirit saith the Lord." Young men of the class remember you are confronted by difficultie [sic] that is in the way of a successful life but remember that the Spirit of the Lord is the source of all success – No matter what the difficulties – no matter how great the darkness – When the Spirit comes there is victory there is light. To live and no sense die is the crown and glory of life. The singing was very fine to day. Just as we were coming out of the College it began to sprinkle and in a very short time the rain began falling in earnest. Miss Sterrett one of the teachers – a niece of the late Dr Davidson of Hamilton stopped in to keep out of the rain – she staid [sic] for tea – and remained with me while the Prof & Mrs Mc & Mr Mc & Miss Woodburn & Ray [Blank space] went over to the College Chapel to [Blank space] I had a good evening with Miss Sterrett. Very damp and raining to night.

8" June Monday. Pleasant after the rain – A busy morning. At ten Fred came and took father and me to Mrs Hollingsworth we had a nice time and a nice dinner – There were about six of the students there to dinner. Mr Mc walked out to see Mr Patton and some of the men this

afternoon. Fred came back with me about four to the Profs. Mr Mc came shortly afterwards. He and Mr Patton drove all over Monmouth in every direction to day. The Profs were having company here this Eve – Mr & Mrs Evans, Mr & Mrs Hamilton and daughter Jennie and Mrs Nannie Struthers Cooper – Fred was invited but he did not come – They had a lovely tea – most beautiful – O yes Riley Little came in on the six O'clock train and was here to tea and with us to night. He and the Profs and Jennie Hamilton and Miss Woodburn and I went over to the College to the Alumni prayer meeting – It was led by Miss Winbigler. Riley gave in his testimony in regard to the great good rec'd from Monmouth College – even his salvation – Dr. Douglass also spoke very earnestly – he looked like a worn soldier from the field of battle – and was still in the fight. The subject was “our lives work.” He said we can not always be on top of the mountain – but we get there sometimes to behold a glimpse of the King of the glory of the beyond. He said each must go down into the conflict – into the valley but we need not go alone but take the master with us to illumine the valley. His words were deep & beautiful. Fred & Archie Stuart were there and called in here and chatted awhile. Fred is quite a popular man and seems to have plenty of friends. This has certainly been a glad bright day – I wonder how it is with the folks at home – I wish I could be there and here at the same time. We rec'd a letter from Homer – I suppose he will be starting to Pittsburg in the morning to Kings School of Oratory. The Sweet Peas are in bloom there – We must have things different at home in regard to flowers.

9" June. Tuesday. This was Field day in the College. Fred was to have brought a carriage and taken Mrs McMillan and me to the grounds but we have had constant rain almost all forenoon. Mrs Cooper too was to have come to chat awhile but the rain has prevented her from being here – Mr Mc went out in town & went with Fred to his boarding house to dinner – Riley went to Dr Wades to dinner. Mr Spears one of the Sr & his sister and Rev. Renwick her to dinner – Miss Woodburn around as happy and sprightly as ever. Ray [illegible] around too. I wrote to grandmother Murdock Saturday and have written to her again to day. I feel that I have been away from home for all of six months. I wonder what Paul & Donald & Malcom are doing to day. On yesterday Mrs Jamison Nash called while we were away They had company this eve at Mother Thompsons for us this eve – as follows Miss Prof Winbigler and her sister Miss Sterrett – both of these Freds teachers – Mr & Mrs Thomson and Mrs Thompson a daughter- in law & Mrs Bailey and Prof & Mrs McMillan – and Miss Woodburn and Riley. Mrs Thompson is a lovely Christian lady – she calls Fred & Homer her boys – they have a lovely home – and we certainly were highly entertained. There [sic] supper was certainly nice too – Riley is here with us at the Prof again to night.

10" June. Wed. The sun came out brightly this morning. All up and on the move this morning and have kept moving all day. Riley here last night – After our breakfast, Fred called and he and Father walked around with me to Mr Struthers & left me there an hour or so with Mrs Cooper – on of our old time friends. She walked with me out to Broadway as I came away from there – As I was on my way down to Mrs Hollingsworths I met Mr Mc coming with Mr Frank

Montgomery to see me – they turned and took me back with them to Mr Ms Store [?] to meet Miss Post, one of Freds friends. I spent a little while there and Mr Mc and I went to Mrs Hollingsworths, Freds boarding house. After dinner Mr Mc went a riding with Mr Patton – Fred & all of the students cleared out – I went up stairs & took a nice sleep – dressed and came down and had a nice time with Mrs H- & her daughter – I came back here at four O'clock – Mr Mc soon came and we dressed for the Alumni Banquet – Profs and Mrs Mc & Miss Woodburn and Fred and Riley L- and I walked around to the 2" U. P. Church Dr [?] Campbells where the meeting was held. The tables were all filled but two when we went in – All of us, the above named took our seats together at the same table – when all the tables were filled a blessing was asked – and then the waiters came around and began their work – and we certainly had a bountiful feast – After this all remained seated and Dr. Clem D. McCoy was toast master – we had letters and speeches. At the close we repaired to the College Chapel and the meeting continued – quite a number of alumnis read & spoke. This meeting continued until a late hour. Fred came and walked back with Father and me to the Profs. This has certainly been a lengthened out day. All are tired to night.

11 June. Thurs. This is the great eventful Commencement day, to us, of Monmouth College – Miss Etta Mitchel of Kirkwood called to see me this morning – her Mother was my friend & school mate years years ago. The Commencement Exercises held in the Opera house – Meeting began after nine. Father and I road [sic] around in the street car to it. Mr McMichal was on the car too & chatted to us all the way – he seems to have a good love & wish for Fred. The meeting was opened by prayer by Rev Saml Allison of Holton Kan. The music fine. Albert Henesy whose parents were with us in early years in our Cedarville congregation was among the graduates – he did will. Fred looked his best and read & spoke as though accustomed to it his subject – “A Century of Democracy” -- while that is not my sentiment or never can be yet I was happy to know my son was able to stand up and do his part on Commencement day among his class – on his line of thinking 2" [?] to none. Some way I felt that by coming out it might help him some day to look and see the shaky foundation on which he stood and help him to find the rock – the solid rock on which to build – his life & politics -- This is my hope to day and my thought. Fred and Riley L- were invited to Prof Rodgers with Mr Mc and me to dinner. Prof has a lovely home and two lovely daughters – They had a nice dinner which we certainly did enjoy. After dinner the Prof went back with us to the Opera house to the closing exercises of the Commencement – Freds friend Archie Stuart spoke this P.M. There were twenty three graduates – Dr. McMichal presented the diplomas—I can only recall a few words of his closing remarks to the class as they gathered before him. He told the class they occupied a position to day they had never occupied before or never could again. It is a solemn moment as you stand leaving your college days with all their glorious opportunities behind you. To day you begin a new life. Tomorrow morning when you waken a new life is before you. No one to set your lesson or point the way. If you rely [?] on the power given you – you will go on to strength & success – but if you fail to do this you will surely fail. But going forth in the name of him that conquered the world – the world will lay at your feet. In the name of Christ and with the

everlasting arms around you go out and go forward. The Eve Mr Archie Stuarts Mother and Mr Mc and I took tea with the club at Mrs Hollingsworths – Fred & Archie both there of course. In the evening we went back to the Opera house to the Society Contests – the meeting both exciting and interesting it was near mid night when we come to leave the hall. With out it was dark and raining Fred had the buss ready and took us down in it to our home at Prof Mcs – What a long long day this has been since early morning until twelve at night What a long happy day to some of us – but it is past and we must move on.

Friday 12th June A beautiful day. This morning Mr MC and I packed traps to move our boarding house to Mrs Thompsons. Fred came and chatted awhile before he left. Mr Mc and I made some morning calls. We called to see Mrs Evans and at Mr Hamiltons grocery. We saw Miss Jennie – We called at Dr. Campbells church to speak to Mrs Hamilton She showed me through the church – we past on to Mrs Thompsons getting there at eleven Oclock – We rec'd a most hearty welcome by Mrs T- and he daughter Mrs Bailey. Fred came and took dinner with us. This afternoon Mrs Hollingsworth took Mrs Thompson and me out riding past the Cemetery and down Broadway past Prof McMillans I called there and got baggage and took it with us to Mrs T-s – Mr Mc went over to Kirnook [?] on a flying trip with Mr Patton. This eve Mr Mc and I invited to Dr McMichals for tea. Fred sent a [illegible] around for me but it came before I was dressed and could not wait – I therefore had to walk. I stopped into speak to Mrs Prof Mc as I past I was not at the Drs long before Mr Mc came – we met a Mrs Anderson there The Dr & Mrs McMichal certainly entertained us nicely. The supper was all you could ask – Everything charming. As we walked past the Profs we made a slight call again – We also called at Johnstons & had our eyes tested and glasses fitted – When we came to Mrs T- we had Fred & Mrs Bailey with us awhile Fred rooms here. We rec'd letters from home from Fannie Also one from Homer at Pittsburg He is boarding at Kings – He says everything is elegant there. I know we ought to be home – on acct of Fannie and the children I wish we were there to night – for her time to be at home is passing away – and yet it is lovely to be here.

13th June. Sat. A lovely day. Fred took breakfast with us here – After breakfast he and Archie Stuart took us around in Mrs Hollingsworth Carriage to call at McDills & at Gilberts and Posts – When we came back, at ten Oclock, Mrs Hollingsworth put in her appearance and took father me out on a long drive – She drove in through the Cemetery and up over hill & vale and did not get into Monmouth until after twelve Mr Mc and I went in with her to dinner – the students had eaten – and we ate with Mrs H- & Ritter and her daughter Mrs Cable – we were hungry and tired & enjoyed our dinner. After dinner I went back a few minutes to Mrs Thompsons – Mrs H- and her daughter Mrs Cable called in their carriage and took me to the Monmouth Pottery – To see their work there it is truly wonderful. We brought Mrs C- around home and Mrs H- drove me to McDonalds office he came out to speak to me – we got Mr Mc where we left him on the street and he took him with us to Mrs McDonalds to call – Then we left Mr Mc on the corner and came home. There was quite an excitement there – as there was a man nearly killed by blowing out a tree by dynamite – Mr Mc and I took tea with Mrs T- Mr Fisover [?] called and

took Mr Mc out riding – they did not get back until late – on the mean time Miss Rodgers called and Jack Stretcher. Mr Mc did not get to see him Mrs Thomson & Mrs Bailey and Mr Mc and Fred and I had a time chatting.

14" June Sabbath. Another Sabbath here I Monmouth. Can it be possible – it seems like we have been gone for a decade. After breakfast I went in to speak to Mrs Hollingsworth – Fred and what is left of the students there for breakfast. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Bailey and Mr Mc and at Dr Hamas [?] church. Rev McQuiston of Lawrence Kansas preached Text "Behold, what manner of love the father had bestowed upon us, that we should be called the Sons of God" The theme of the text Divine Sonship. Wonderful as it may seem God taketh thought of every one of us. When God adopts a child into his family he gives it his name and disposition. If we are Gods children we have a covenant right to all the blessing we receive from our heavenly father. There is not a power or law in the universe of God that can change the relationship of your child and make a child not your child Fred at Florida Pattison's mission school to day. He and Archie Stuart heard Rev Jamison (Archie's brother in law) preach. Fred here with us at Mrs Ts for dinner This afternoon I wanted to do a little missionary work in town. Fred sent the hack around for me and I stopped out at McDonalds to see his wife – from there I called in to speak to the Prof Mcs After lunch Mr Mc and Fred & Archie Stuart and I at the baptist church – It was childrens day there The young folks out by the numbers to night. We are all here and happy. O dear but I am tired to night. Almost asleep as I write – McDonald walked with me a little distance for a better opportunity to talk to me. Mrs Thompson & daughter Mrs Bailey with us around the lamp. These have been pleasant days. We have enjoyed so much here Fred and Harlan gave Father the send off before we started and Fred has kept it up ever since we came here.

15" June. Monday Most a lovely day. At eight O'clock Fred brought a carriage around and took Mr Mc and Mrs Thompson and me on a drive to [illegible] on the Mississippi River. He left his team at the livery stable and we went on the boat to Kisetburg [?] twelve miles up the river – we went to the hotel for dinner and went back on the two O'clock train to [illegible] – we got our team & started home from there reaching here after five – We certainly had a delightful day. The carriage was comfortable the horses fine & got along at good speed – Mrs Bailey back from the store and we soon had a No one supper – After supper Fred & Archie Stuart went up town and Mr Mc was also there on an errand – I went with him Prof Mc and Mrs Mc called – so also did Mrs Nash – her husband called this morning Mrs McMillan said Miss Winbigler called to see me since we left there. Mr Mc and I up town at the jeweler store – looking for glasses for self – We are talking about starting home in the morning – We feel that this is the limit – we must go there. We are feeling tired to night Fred is settling up his affairs here – I wish he was ready to come home with us in the morning. O by the way we called and told Mrs Hollingsworth & daughter Ritter and Mrs Cable good by this Eve.

16" June Tuesday. After breakfast and prayers we told Mrs Thompson and Mrs Bailey good by and Fred sent the hack around for us to take us to the eight O'clock train. We met Fred & Archie Stuart on the street and they rode with us to the depot – Prof McMillan was there to see us off – It was almost with a feeling of sadness that we said good by the friends in Monmouth for they certainly entertained us most royally. We reached Peoria at noon had dinner there – and took the noon train for Indianapolis – but learned that we would have to stay all night there that there would be no train out for Springfield before morning I got uneasy about Clayton and Jason coming in for us and not being there that when we came to Farmington we sent a dispatch from off the train to Harlan telling him we would not arrive until the morning. We reached Indianapolis at six O'clock – went to the Ross house took a room – had supper and went up town and walked about the city – it was not then dark. We visited the State house it is a magnificent building – cost nearly two million of dollars and eleven years of building – we certainly saw a great deal and enjoyed a great deal – but were very tired as we found our way back to the hotel.

17" June Wed. Quite a beautiful day. Mr Mc and I left Indianapolis at six O'clock and reached Springfield 20" minutes of eleven – Clara & Paul and Harlan and Sadie S. were at the train waiting for us – After a little stop in S- we reached home a little past noon – we had a light lunch – and then had an early supper with the family. All got along nicely both in the house and out of the house while we were away. When we came in found Fannie and Donald and Malcom and Uncle Joe and Clayton and Jason and Aunt Sidney and Harry here – and Will – While we had a lovely time away – yet we are glad to be here for this is where our place is our work – May we be faithful to the close of our day. We left Fred in Monmouth hope he will be home soon. Homer left for Pittsburg the Tuesday after we went away to School of Oratory. Harlan is at his place in S- This is how we are all located at this writing. How nice and good it was of Fred & Harlan to make it possible for us to have such a nice trip for the way the clouds are above and around us we could not have gone with out their help.