

September and November 1912
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As a writer in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Martha McMillan usually focuses her journals on the mundane aspects of her life. She comments on the farm animals, what crops are growing or being sold, her travels to and from towns, her family's health, and her interactions with a multitude of friends and family. By reading Martha's journals, one can get a better picture of what everyday life was like during the times in which she lived.

One theme throughout Martha's journals is community. In the months I transcribed, September and November of 1912, Martha writes about her travels. These trips are mainly to visit family and friends who are spread around both Cedarville and the rest of the United States. Martha McMillan also attends meetings and conferences, as well as writes down information from events her friends and family attended. To Martha, a community is an essential part of life. These are the people who can support one-another through the good and the bad. Even when she becomes too ill to leave her home, Martha's community comes to her aid. Friends and family members visit her when she is bed-ridden, assist with the harvesting, and keep her updated with recent political events.

Another theme in Martha's journals is her constant faith in God, even amidst trying times. Martha references moments when she recognizes God's protection and sovereignty in hers and her family's lives. In November of 1912, Martha's grandson has an accident. However, the young Rankin is miraculously unscathed. She immediately gives glory to God in these troubling moments. Throughout Martha's 1912 journal, one can read her thoughts on God's providence and love.

Martha's journals still have relevance to a 2017 audience. They depict the beauty of the mundane. Contemporary readers can relate to the themes of a need for community and strong

family ties. For example, college students at Cedarville probably feel the same way as Martha did in her 1912 journal: removed from the home they once held dear and in need of a strong community presence to help them in times of trouble.