

# **Danforth-Huntington Collection**

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May 7, 2010

Accession Number: 2001.79

Schuyler C. Townson Research Library  
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## Provenance

This collection was acquired by Margaret Schmitt MacNab at an auction around 1955<sup>1</sup> and donated to the Rochester Museum and Science Center in 2001.

The auction was held at the Danforth residence, located at 200 West Avenue, Rochester, New York, 14611. The home had recently been handed over to the City of Rochester in 1945 by Edwine Blake Danforth.<sup>2</sup> It is possible that Edwine, having fallen on financial hardship during that time, was forced to give up the residence, as well as everything in it, to the City.<sup>3</sup> Thus, MacNab may have acquired the collection as a result of the City's attempt to clean out the property.

A local Rochester historian, MacNab kept the collection until 2001 when she retired and moved to Venice, Florida. Over the years, MacNab was responsible for creating legible typescripts of most of the diaries, which have added greatly to the usability of the collection.

Recognizing the significance it has to early Rochester history, MacNab wished to keep the collection in Rochester. MacNab signed a Deed of Gift on December 13, 2001 donating the collection to the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The collection now resides in the museum's library known as the Schuyler C. Townson Research Library.

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<sup>1</sup> John Westerberg, "Danforth-Huntington Journals," Appraisal of the Danforth-Huntington Diary Collection for Margaret MacNab, December 2001. p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> "Danforth Estate Given for City Park," Times-Union, 27 June 1945, under "Rochester."

<sup>3</sup> C. Howk to file, memorandum regarding "Re: Danforth House, 200 West Avenue – chain of owners and occupants, late 1800's-1940's," July 11, 1995, from the Landmark Society of Rochester.

## Biographical Note

Mrs. Frances “Fanny” Wright Danforth Huntington was born on March 1, 1847 in Rochester, New York and died on February 18, 1920, just shy of her 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday. She belonged to a socially prominent Rochester family during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. She is the author of a series of diaries that offer unparalleled insight into the luxurious lifestyle of a privileged socialite from early Rochester history.

Her father was a wealthy Rochester lawyer and New York State politician originally from Boston.<sup>4</sup> George Franklin Danforth (July 5, 1819–Sept. 25, 1899) was responsible for affording Fanny the wealthy lifestyle that she writes about in her diaries. He would become one of Rochester’s most competent, respected, and talented lawyers and would eventually enter into politics as an Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. He is also notable for having presided over a public meeting in Rochester in January 1894 where Susan B. Anthony spoke as part of her New York State campaign trail advocating women’s right to vote.<sup>5</sup>

Her mother, Frances Jeannette Wright (birth date unknown–January 25, 1895), was from Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Frances Wright was a benevolent woman involved with several charities and would become the devoted leader of the State Industrial School in Rochester during the latter half of the 1800’s until her death. She met George F. Danforth at a literary club meeting in 1843 and they were married on April 27, 1846.<sup>6</sup> Shortly after, Fanny was born. Fanny also had a younger brother named Henry “Harry” Gold Danforth (June 14, 1854–April 8, 1918), and a younger sister named Jessie Appleton Danforth (April 7, 1861–circa 1937).

At the age of 17, Fanny Danforth began to write in a journal and would continue to write for 54 years. Her early diaries were written at a time when she and her friends were coming of age and were being approached by possible suitors. At this time, she was consumed by social engagements such as house visitations, dinners, theatrical plays, holiday festivities, church, academic classes, shopping excursions, and vacations, to name a few. Her diaries are set in Rochester, New York and mention several local acquaintances of importance, such as the Sibley’s, the Powers’, the Crittenden’s, the Ellwangers, the Martindales, and many more.

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<sup>4</sup> John Joseph May, Danforth Genealogy: Nicholas Danforth, of Framingham, England, and Cambridge, N. E. [1589-1638] and William Danforth, of Newbury, Mass. [1640-1721] and Their Descendants, (Boston, MA: Charles H. Pope, 1902) p. 286.

<sup>5</sup> Ida Husted Harper, The Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony, Volume II: Including Public Addresses, Her Own Letters, and Many from her Contemporaries During Fifty Years (Indianapolis, IN: Hollenbeck Press, 1898) p. 762.

<sup>6</sup> John Westerberg, “Danforth-Huntington Journals,” Appraisal of the Danforth-Huntington Diary Collection for Margaret MacNab, December 2001. p. 2.

In October 1867, at the age of 20, a young man named Henry Fitch Huntington, born in Carlisle<sup>7</sup>, New York, expressed his love to Fanny. Fanny wrote that he stole her away under an elm tree and “told me how devotedly he loved me twelve times.”<sup>8</sup> Fanny and Henry married on April 27, 1870, on the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her parents’ marriage.<sup>9</sup> They had three children: Jeanette Wadsworth Huntington, George Danforth Huntington, and Elizabeth Partridge Huntington.

Jeanette Huntington (July 12, 1871–August 17, 1962), the eldest daughter of Fanny, began writing her own dairies at the age of 21. She continues to shed light on social activity of Rochester’s affluent society during the late 1890’s and early 1900’s. Jeannette makes note of numerous luncheons, musicals, dinners, calls, church services, sporting events, lectures, plays, and other social engagements that occupied the well-off women of the Victorian era. She never married.

Along with these activities, frequent overseas pleasure trips also took up a significant portion of their time. At the age of 30, Jeannette, with her sister Elizabeth and her mother Fanny, toured Europe together on an excursion<sup>10</sup> that involved visiting tourist sites, seeing beautiful homes, shopping, taking sailing trips, enjoying long walks, and experiencing all that the European cultures had to offer women of wealth. Most of the later dairies of Jeannette and Fanny Huntington contain descriptions depicting what it was like to travel as a first class citizen overseas.

Another generation of Danforth women also enjoyed traveling. Mary Jane Danforth (circa 1823–March 27, 1875), aunt to Fanny Huntington, enjoyed a trip to Europe and documented it in a travel diary dating from September 1873 to May 1874. Her name before marriage was Mary Jane Wellington. Mary Jane had married into the Danforth family in April of 1845 as the wife to James Hutchins Danforth, who was the older brother of George F. Danforth. Fanny Huntington, in particular, had a very close relationship with her aunt Mary and mentions her several times in her dairies. Mary died shortly after her trip in 1875, around the age of 52.

Fanny Huntington, Jeannette Huntington, and Mary Danforth are the three principle authors of the manuscript dairies in the Danforth and Huntington Diary Collection. The collection of their personal writings offer a unique look into the social habits of upper class women during the development of the city of Rochester, New York, from the 1860’s to the early 1900’s. It is unknown if there is anything comparable to it that offers as much insight into the forgotten lifestyle of these prominent Rochester women.

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<sup>7</sup> The Huntington Family in America: A Genealogical Memoir of the Descendants of Simon Huntington from 1633 to 1915, (Hartford, CT: Huntington Family Association, 1915) p. 868.

<sup>8</sup> Fanny Danforth, Journal #3, Danforth-Huntington Diary Collection, copyist typescript, folio, entry on October 20, 1867.

<sup>9</sup> It is important to note that Fanny Danforth’s name changes to Fanny Danforth Huntington after marrying.

<sup>10</sup> Jeannette Huntington, Journal #16, Manuscript Journal, entry on January 23, 1901.

## Scope and Content Note

The Danforth-Huntington Collection contains manuscripts, typescripts, and ephemera.

The collection is largely composed of twenty-four hand-written, manuscript diaries that were mostly written by three generations of Danforth women beginning in 1864 and concluding in 1926. Fanny Danforth was the main author, having written seventeen of the twenty-four diaries. Her daughter, Jeanette Huntington, wrote five, and her aunt, Mary Danforth, wrote one. The manuscripts include personal writings and reflections about daily life.

George Franklin Danforth, father of Fanny, wrote one diary in the collection. The contents are autobiographical and mention where he was educated and who his family members are. Although he did not write more than nine pages worth of material, his writings provide detailed information about his family composition and his early life.

Of the twenty-four manuscript diaries, there are thirteen companion typescripts. The content of the typescripts is the same as the content in the hand-written manuscript diaries. The typescripts do not differ from the original manuscripts, aside from occasional typographical errors. Of the thirteen typescripts, twelve of them duplicate the first twelve diaries written by Fanny. The last of the typescripts duplicates the second diary authored by Jeannette.

Ephemera in the Danforth-Huntington Collection include various paper memorabilia as well as books and hand-written recipe books that belonged to the Danforths. Some of the ephemera include programs from charity or theatrical events, telegrams, passenger lists from voyages overseas, paper souvenirs from travels abroad, postcards, newspaper clippings, printed obituaries, and poems.

### **Characteristics of the Writing Style:**

The writing style of Fanny Danforth is brisk. Her entries are mainly composed of jottings that do not provide much introspection. Her entries act like an inventory or list of daily activities. The reader is told that an event has happened, but not how the author feels about the event. On the other hand, Jeannette Huntington and Mary Jane Danforth both write with more introspection and are more attentive to how events affect them.

## Diary Summaries

These summaries are short descriptions that offer a general idea about the content within each diary. Each summary concludes with a quote from the diary that highlights the author's perspective on a specific event. The following describes the first nineteen of the twenty-four diaries.

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Diary Number: 1

Author: Frances "Fanny" Wright Danforth

Date: December 3, 1864–January 12, 1866

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 17 and ends when she is 18. She is involved with the household preparations for Christmas and New Years celebrations at the Danforth residence in Rochester. She visits her uncle Isaac Warren and aunt Mary Danforth in Cambridge, Massachusetts for four months in 1865. In September 1865, Fanny crosses the Atlantic Ocean by ship to Paris with a friend for pleasure.

Quote:

*"It seemed horrible to get into a carriage and ride off entirely alone without being able to speak a word of French hardly and in an entirely strange country, but I did arrive safely at Mr. Putnam's in spite of all my fears."* September 27, 1865

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Diary Number: 2

Author: Frances "Fanny" Wright Danforth

Date: September 23, 1866–May 1, 1867

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 19 and ends when she is 20. She is in Rochester where the winter weather is bitterly cold and miserable. The social season is in full swing with many parties and house calls. Visitation to several Rochester families, such as those of Mrs. Eastman, Mrs. Strong, the Sibley's, the Whitney's, and the Martindale's are mentioned. Many parties are attended with Mary, Fanny's cousin, who comes to visit Fanny from Cambridge in December and stays for many months. Two young men, Mr. Abbott and Mr. Huntington (Fanny's soon-to-be fiancée) pursue them.

Quote:

*"I shall, I daresay, be moderately tired of partygoing by next winter and shall be willing to be sensible and read and sew and all that. Now I think of nothing, absolutely but parties and having people come up here."* January 25, 1867

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Diary Number: 3

Author: Frances "Fanny" Wright Danforth  
Date: May 2, 1867–February 1, 1868

Summary:

This diary takes place when Fanny is 20 years old. The first half of the journal depicts Fanny's three-month visit to Cambridge to visit her cousin Mary. While there, she attends church, theatrical plays, baseball games, croquet matches, carriage rides, parties, and other engagements. She and Mary entertain several callers throughout. The second half of the journal is when Fanny is back in Rochester. Most of her friends and cousins are getting engaged and married. Fanny and Mr. Henry Huntington's relationship grows until he finally expresses his love to her. They make an arrangement to be engaged when Fanny turns 21.

Quote:

*"How strange it will be to have Mr. Abbott married and settled down. No more calls, no more good old times. I only know one gentleman I should miss more were he to be married."* October 13, 1867

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Diary Number: 4

Author: Frances "Fanny" Wright Danforth  
Date: February 2, 1868–November 8, 1868

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 20 years old and ends when she is 21. She becomes officially engaged to Henry Huntington on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in March, 1868. Her cousin Mary is visiting Rochester and gets a marriage proposal from a Mr. Morris Longstreth, which she accepts. Her other cousin Lizzie weds a Mr. Schoby. Amidst household chores and running errands, Fanny receives regular visits from Henry Huntington. Her Aunt Mary comes and visits for the summer. Before the year is over, Fanny takes two separate trips to Niagara, a trip to Buffalo, and trip to the Adirondacks.

Quote:

*"Henry rode down with us. Now there is a report all over the city that our engagement is broken. What a gossipy place."* October 9, 1868

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Diary Number: 5

Author: Frances "Fanny" Wright Danforth  
Date: November 9, 1868–September 13, 1869

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 21 years old and ends when she is 22. She is in Rochester. Being engaged, Fanny attends fewer parties in the winter social season. She goes downtown and gets sick, preventing her from going outside of the house for several days. When is well enough to run errands, she often goes to down town Rochester to



Miss Shears, for example, to order dresses. She attends lectures by abolitionist and women's right activist Anna Dickinson and minister Robert Collyer. She goes to Buffalo for a few days in February to see her friend Annie Putnam. Henry Huntington takes a trip down to Washington, D.C. in March where he attends President Grant's inauguration. Fanny's cousin Lizzie dies of heart disease and leaves behind her husband Mr. Schoby.

Quote:

*"Hattie [Putnam] and I took the carriage and rode down town when Harry went. Rode up East Avenue up to Mount Hope and about the city so that Hattie might have an idea what it was like, though we almost froze it was so cold."* November 19, 1868

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Diary Number: 6

Author: Frances "Fanny" Danforth Huntington

Date: December 4, 1869–September 23, 1870 (Nearly 2 month gap from March 25, 1870–May 5, 1870)

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 22 years old and ends when she is 23. Fanny is in Rochester. She caters to her father's club meeting where lawyers from Albany and New York City attend. She visits Cambridge to go shopping before her wedding. She gets married to Henry Huntington on April 27, 1870 during the gap in entries. She takes trips to Niagara and Buffalo. Fanny takes a trip to Lewes, Delaware in August 1870 with her family and describes going to the ocean for the first time.

Quote:

*"Took a bath in the most original way. As there were no bathhouses, Dr. Foote, Harry and the driver went behind a sand hill while we dressed and undressed on the open beach. A jolly bath we had, my first ocean bath."* September 6, 1870

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Diary Number: 7

Author: Frances "Fanny" Danforth Huntington

Date: October 10, 1870–September 26, 1878

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 23 years old and ends when she is 31. Fanny gives birth to her three children during this period: daughter Jeannette on July 12, 1871; son George on July 11, 1874; and daughter Elizabeth on June 18, 1876. On August 18, Fanny mentions that her Aunt Mary has accepted an invitation to travel to Europe in the winter of 1873.

Quote:

*"I dressed in my black silk when I got up, then after breakfast dressed the baby in all her best, the blanket that she has not worn yet, which Mama got her... Mr. Holland*

*performed the ceremony beautifully and the baby behaved better than any of them had ever seen a baby before.*" December 27, 1871

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Diary Number: 8

Author: Mary Jane Danforth

Date: September 6, 1873–May 30, 1874

Summary:

This diary takes place when Mary is approximately 50 years old. This journal documents Mary's winter excursion to Europe. She had been offered the chance to go, all expenses paid, by her friend, Mrs. Farwell. Mary begins her trip by boarding a steamship from New York City to Paris. Not long after taking off, Mary's ship is in a collision with a smaller ship carrying cabbages, but it is soon mended. Mary describes her eating and leisure routines on the ship. Mary arrives in France where she meets up with Mrs. Farwell. The two of them travel together and sightsee extensively, though Mrs. Farwell is ill much of the time. Their trip begins with seeing French towns, but then predominately becomes an extensive tour around Germany. She also visits Austria and Prague in between, and ends the journal with her arrival in Brussels, Belgium. Observations of activities and visits to hotels, museums, churches, gardens, and other sightseeing destinations populate her journal.

Quote:

*"Mrs. Quinn was dreadfully frightened, and I was so occupied with her, that I never thought of myself, whether I was frightened or not. It was sometime before the ships could be separated, the ropes and chains ever so entangled, and it was funny to see the Captain, he was so excited, he flew about like a wild man."* September 8, 1873

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Diary Number: 9

Author: Frances "Fanny" Danforth Huntington

Date: December 13, 1878–May 7, 1881

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 31 years old and ends when she is 34. This journal is mainly concerned with family life in Rochester. Fanny notes the guest list of 800 people for the celebration of her father's, George F. Danforth's, election as Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals in January of 1879. He would take this position and continue there for 11 years. Fanny's brother, Harry, in his mid 20's, and her sister, Jessie, in her late teens, go to many parties. Fanny dines with her mother often and becomes very close to her as her mother becomes ill with a bad knee and has to have "electrical treatments." Fanny, in bad health herself, frequently requests house calls by Dr. Ely. Fanny's marriage is distanced by Henry's frequent absence and his work-related problems at the bank. Fanny oversees the lessons of her children. The telephone is installed in her home for the first time around December 13, 1879. New plumbing is also

being installed. Fanny's mother-in-law, Mrs. Huntington, dies on February 23, 1881 and a funeral is held at Fanny's home shortly after.

Quote:

*"Henry sent for a carriage by the telephone and it came up within half an hour. We had a charming ride, Henry and I. The telephone is going to be a wonderful convenience—and what a wonder—to be able to talk and recognize people's voices."* December 13, 1879

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Diary Number: 10

Author: Frances "Fanny" Danforth Huntington

Date: May 8, 1881–December 4, 1884

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 34 years old and ends when she is 37. Fanny is frustrated over not being able to find a suitable cook. She takes a cooking class. Henry, Fanny's husband, goes to England for a month. He is not mentioned very much throughout the diary. Fanny's children often become ill. Fanny herself experiences worsening health with vomiting, fainting, and a bad tooth. Fanny goes on trips by train to Saratoga, Avon, Hornellsville, and New York City, NY, as well as Boston, MA, and Bar Harbor, ME, in 1881 and 1882. President Garfield is shot on July 2, 1881, but Fanny does not elaborate on the event. Fanny organizes the wedding for her husband's relative, Nellie Huntington, in April 1882. Fanny visits Nellie in January, 1883 and is present for the birth of Nellie's daughter, whose full name becomes "Fanny Huntington Tower" in honor of Fanny. Fanny writes few entries, shorter in length, in 1884.

Quote:

*"Elizabeth had a miserable night. I was up with her almost all night. She could hardly breathe. I gave her castor oil and ipecac, put hot water on her chest and then rubbed in goose oil and camphor which seemed to most relieve her. Dr. Dewey came up and gave her more powders."* February 5, 1882

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Diary Number: 11

Author: Frances "Fanny" Danforth Huntington

Date: December 25, 1884–February 20, 1890

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 37 years old and ends when she is 42. Fanny's mother passes away January 25, 1885. At this point, Fanny stops writing for a period of six months. It isn't until July 1885 when Fanny begins writing again. She embarks on a vacation to Boston and Cape Cod in July 1885. Fanny goes on a short trip to Albany and New York City in late January 1886. Fanny returns to Rochester in early February, when she finally stops wearing her black veil in church. Her children Jeannette, George and Elizabeth all approach tween and teen ages. In 1887, Fanny goes on trips, bouncing around all over New Hampshire and New York State. Fanny becomes actively involved

in several organizations in Rochester such as the Reading Club, City Hospital Board, Hospital Sewing Society, French Club, Industrial School meetings, and the Women's Ethical Club. Henry, Fanny's husband, is increasingly and suspiciously gone some evenings. This journal is the first where Edwine Blake, the future wife of Fanny's brother, Harry, is mentioned.

Quote:

*"We reached Boston at 9:50 after a hot night, had breakfast and a room where we rested. Henry went back to the depot and saw to tickets and rechecking, then at one took Elizabeth to the Public Gardens, dinner at 2:30 and in the street cars to the train at 4:40. So hot everyone was leaving Boston, over 20 cars on our train, ½ hour late then we took a stagecoach with four horses. Poor little E. was very tired so I got her to bed immediately. We have two comfortable rooms and all seems very neat, the people pleasant."* July 25, 1885

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Diary Number: 12

Author: Frances "Fanny" Danforth Huntington

Date: March 7, 1890–October 12, 1892

Summary:

This diary begins right before Fanny's 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday and ends when Fanny is 45 years old. Under increasingly pressing circumstances of debt, Fanny's husband Henry finally resigns from his position at a bank in April 1890. He begins work immediately at the Rochester and Charlotte Iron Company. In November 1890, Fanny's sister Jessie gets married to Charles Edmund Miller. Fanny is heavily involved in meetings at the Hospital and Industrial School. Jeannette is the ages of 19, 20, and 21 during this time. Fanny devotes herself to a fashionable "coming out" reception for 20-year-old Jeannette in January 1892. Fanny takes short trips in the summer of 1892 to Canandaigua, Buffalo, and Southampton.

Quote:

*"Reception. All passed off beautifully... Jeannette wore the dress she wore as bridesmaid for Jessie's wedding, I my grey silk which I made over and turned a little low in the neck. There were fifty or sixty gentlemen present which we thought doing very well. Everyone seemed to have a pleasant time."* January 14, 1892

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Diary Number: 13

Author: Jeannette Wadsworth Huntington

Date: October 8, 1892–February 4, 1896

Summary:

This diary begins when Jeannette is 21 years old and ends when she is 24. Like her mother at that age, Jeannette is constantly involved with social engagements. These engagements include going to parties, luncheons, theatrical plays and musicals, lectures,

playing croquet, and much more. Jeannette played The Red Queen in an 1895 production of *Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass*. Jeannette describes going to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 by way of Buffalo and Cleveland. Jeannette gets word that her cousin Bessie has drowned in the sinking of the *S.S. Elbe* by collision with another steamer, called *Crathie*, in January 1895 in the North Sea.

Quote:

*"We saw her name on the passenger list in the paper but thought there must be some mistake. So passed a terrible day trying to find out if it was really true. We were all over at Cousin Franks in the afternoon when he got a cablegram from her husband saying it was true. It was too horrible to believe almost and the poor little thing was all alone. They found the body about two weeks afterward and brought it into England. She was the only woman found of all those on board."* July 12, 1895

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Diary Number: 14

Author: Frances "Fanny" Danforth Huntington

Date: June 26, 1893–September 25, 1899

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 46 years old and ends when she is 52. Her diary overlaps by 3 years with Jeannette's first diary (Diary Number 13). Consequently, Fanny's diary repeats some of the same events seen in Jeannette's first diary, such as the trip to the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 and Cousin Bessie's death. Jeannette becomes seriously ill, but recovers. Although her Henry's new job does not pay as well, Fanny and her children continue to take trips to Buffalo, Lake Keuka, New York City, Philadelphia, Southampton, Boston, and more. Fanny gets an urgent feeling to see her father right before hearing the news that her father, George F. Danforth, has died in New York City while arguing a case in court on September 25, 1899. Her diary ends there, leaving no record of the funeral arrangements for her father or for her uncle Isaac Warren Danforth, who passes away two months later on November 29, 1899.

Quote:

*"Papa having been away from home so long I had the strongest feeling that I must see him. I wrote that I would go to N.Y. by way of White Mts. and bring E. down...but there were no rooms in the House and it did not seem worthwhile to for so short a time to stay outside. Papa seemed to think I would be foolish too. Miss Robins went up and I went to see her about going with her. All said the house was so crowded that I gave it up."*

September 13, 1899

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Diary Number: 15

Author: Frances "Fanny" Danforth Huntington

Date: July 13, 1900–October 14, 1901

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 53 and ends when she is 54 years old. When Fanny begins, it has been roughly 8 months since her father passed away. Her husband Henry died less than a month before she begins this diary, on June 25, 1900. Fanny begins this diary with descriptions of visiting New Hampshire. Then Fanny and her two daughters, Jeannette and Elizabeth, go on a trip to Europe in late January 1901 that continues until October 1901. They leave from New York City by the steamship *S.S. Hohenzollern* to the Strait of Gibraltar and finally landing in Naples, Italy. The rest of Fanny's diary remarks her visits in the cities in Italy, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, France, and England. Fanny's last entries describe the beginning of her voyage back to the U.S. on the *S.S. Minnehaha* in October, 1901.

Quote:

*"Still feeling very well, and off to go to our daily bath, and all meals. Though it is stormy and rough, music in the dining saloon this evening. We begin to know people."* October 8, 1900

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Diary Number: 16

Author: Jeannette Wadsworth Huntington

Date: January 11, 1901–September 22, 1901

Summary:

This diary begins when Jeannette is 30 years old and ends when she is 31. This diary overlaps in time with Fanny's diary (Diary Number 15) about the same trip to Europe. However, Jeannette's diary is more introspective and more interesting to read in its reports of the trip. It begins a week before Jeannette, her mother, and her sister, are to set sail over the Atlantic. The descriptions of the sea voyage, operas, concerts, colleges, museums, libraries, churches, hotels, river rides, and leisurely walks all show how charmed Jeannette was by the experience. Her diary ends in London, only a few weeks before she boards the *S.S. Minnehaha* to return to the United States.

Quote:

*"No celebration here of G.W.'s birth... The road goes through the oldest and dirtiest part of Naples, also the wickedest so they tell us. Our driver seemed very nervous lest something should be grabbed right out of the carriage or even our capes from our backs. It is very curious that part of the city, the streets are narrow and dirty beyond description as are also the people... We were rather glad to leave it was such a dark cavernous looking place."* February 22, 1901

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Diary Number: 17

Author: Frances "Fanny" Danforth Huntington

Date: November 11, 1902–September 13, 1903

Summary:

This diary begins when Fanny is 55 years old and ends when she is 56. In this journal, Fanny makes comments about trips she takes to Boston, several cities in Canada, Buffalo, and finally New York City. From there, she leaves on the *S.S. Minneapolis* on a trip to Europe with her daughters. They arrive in London, proceeding on to visit Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and France. Throughout her stays, she mentions their activities abroad, such as see churches, shop, take walks, go to museums and exhibitions, and take train rides. The journal ends abruptly, without explanation, when Fanny is in the south of France in 1903.

Quote:

*“On Minneapolis. Lovely day. So perfectly comfortable and happy. Steamer Kroonland, Red Star Line, in view all day. So smooth there could be no speak for illness. I am enjoying it all so much.... Joy. ‘Light’ wind. Sea smooth. Fine. 346 miles.”* August 2, 1903

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Diary Number: 18

Author: Jeannette Wadsworth Huntington

Date: July 17, 1905–December 31, 1909

Summary:

This diary begins when Jeannette is 33 years old and ends when she is 37. Jeannette wrote in a journal that was preformatted as “A Line A Day” book that allows less space to write. Thus, Jeannette’s entries are more condensed in this diary than in her previous diaries. Jeannette begins her diary in Rochester in July 1905 describing the intense heat and lazy summer activities like horseback riding, rowing, picnicking, bowling, hiking, playing tennis, attending church, walking, and sitting on her house’s piazza in the evenings. A “Mr. Strayer” and “Ernest” are usual visitors to dinner and are frequent traveling companions. In September 1905, Jeannette goes on a short trip to Boston. Thanksgiving is taken at her Uncle Harry’s home in 1905. In 1906, Jeannette’s entries are brief and mostly talk about the weather, who visited her, and who dined with her. In late May and June of 1906, Jeannette embarks on a wagon trip to Yellowstone National Park, CA and passes through many Chicago, IL, Minneapolis, MN, Badlands National Park, SD, Lower Geyser Basin, WY, and Old Faithful, WY. Jeannette’s Uncle Charles (married to Jessie Appleton Danforth) dies on December 20, 1906, but Jeannette does not attend his funeral. In 1907, Jeannette goes on a trip to England and Scotland with her mother, Fanny, and sister, Elizabeth, and Ernest. Jeannette’s sister, Elizabeth, gets engaged to Laurence de Kalisch Stephens in March and gets married on July 20, 1909.

Quote:

*“Rome. Eliz. went to the opera, brought-with Mr. Stephens and his aunt. I sat up for them and he came in and we talked and had some beer. As soon as we got upstairs Eliz. told me that she had promised that afternoon to marry him...His name is Laurence de Kalisch Stephens and I like him extremely and am glad to have him for a brother. I hope the Lord will bless them both and make them happy all their lives.”* March 12, 1909 (at back of journal under “Memoranda”)

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Diary Number: 19

Author: Jeannette Wadsworth Huntington

Date: January 1, 1910–August 15, 1914

Summary:

This diary begins when Jeannette is 38 years old and ends when she is 43. Home life in Rochester is written about briefly. In contrast, her travel abroad to the Middle East is discussed in greater detail. Jeannette begins her diary with a trip to Montreal to visit her sister Elizabeth. Elizabeth has two children in this diary, first a son born on June 14, 1912, and then a daughter born on August 9, 1913. On April 15, 1912, Jeannette mentions the sinking of the Titanic and the drowning of 1,300 people. In January 1913, Jeannette and her mother travel to Egypt, along with other regions in the Middle East, where she takes in the sights and sees the cities. While abroad in March 1913, Jeannette becomes very ill with typhoid fever and gets down to 92 pounds in weight. She recuperates slowly and eventually carries on her trip. She becomes acquainted with famed King Tutankhamen tomb discoverer, Mr. Howard Carter, while abroad. Jeannette then passes through Italy, Spain, and England before leaving for home on the S.S. *Minnewaska* in June of 1913. Although there aren't many entries in the year 1914, Jeannette finishes her diary by mentioning the opening of the Panama Canal in August 1914.

Quote:

*“Beautiful day. In sight of the African Coast all day. Arrived at Algiers quite early in afternoon and got ashore about 4:00. We went with the Stebbins and Starks. Took a car to Hotel St. George. Dined at their hotel with the Stebbins. Took a guide in the evening and went up into the native town and saw a native dance from which we removed ourselves and waited outside until it was over.”* January 30, 1913



## Appendix: Complete List of Diaries

### Summary of Danforth Gift

Diary Number	Author	Dates	Pages	Size
1	Fanny Danforth	12/3/1864 - 1/12/66	Typescript: 38 Manuscript: unknown	FOLIO unknown
2	Fanny Danforth	9/23/1866 - 5/1/1867	Typescript: 64 Manuscript: unknown	FOLIO unknown
3	Fanny Danforth	5/2/1867-2/1/1868	Typescript: 87 Manuscript: unknown	FOLIO unknown
4	Fanny Danforth	2/2/1868 - 11/8/1868	Typescript: 48 Manuscript: 248 pp	FOLIO 8 vo
5	Fanny Danforth	11/9/1868 - 9/13/1869	Typescript: 39 Manuscript: 242 pp	FOLIO 8 vo
6	Fanny Huntington	12/4/1869 - 9/23/1870	Typescript: 36 Manuscript: unknown	FOLIO unknown
7	Fanny Huntington	10/5/1870 - 9/26/1878	Typescript: 51 Manuscript: 216 pp	FOLIO 8 vo
8*	Mary Danforth	9/6/1873 - 5/30/1874	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscript: 234 pp	8 vo
9	Fanny Huntington	12/13/1878 - 5/7/1881	Typescript: 72 Manuscript: Unknown	FOLIO unknown
10	Fanny Huntington	5/8/1881 - 12/4/1884	Typescript: 81 Manuscript: 335 pp	FOLIO 8 vo
11	Fanny Huntington	12/25/1884 - 2/20/1890	Typescript: 64 Manuscript: 335 pp	FOLIO 8 vo
12	Fanny Huntington	3/7/1890 - 10/12/1892	Typescript: 30 Manuscript: 147 pp	FOLIO 8 vo
13*	Jeannette Huntington	10/8/1892 - 2/4/1896	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscript 164	10 vo

14	Fanny Huntington	6/26/1893 - 9/25/1899	Typescript: 33 Manuscript: unknown	FOLIO unknown
15*	Fanny Huntington	7/13/1900 - 10/14/1900	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscript: 208 pp	8 vo
16	Jeannette Huntington	1/17/1901 - 9/22/1901	Typescript: 46 Manuscript: 102 pp	FOLIO 4 to
17*	Fanny Huntington	11/11/1902 - 9/13/1903	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscript: 77 pp	8 vo
18*	Jeannette Huntington	7/17/1905 - 12/31/1909	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscript: 186 pp	4 to
19*	Jeannette Huntington	1/1/1910 - 8/15/1914	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscripted: 140 pp	4 to
20*	George Franklin Danforth	1/1/1891 - 6/5/1892	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscript: Unknown	Unknown
21*	Fanny Huntington	1/1/1904 - 11/5/1908	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscript: Unknown	Unknown
22*	Fanny Huntington	1/1/1909 - 12/9/1913	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscript: Unknown	Unknown
23*	Fanny Huntington	3/1/1914 - 11/8/1918	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscript Unknown	Unknown
24*	Jeannette Huntington	7/31/1924 - 8/21/1926	(NO TYPESCRIPT) Manuscript: Unknown	Unknown

\*No typescript for this diary

Note: Fanny Danforth and Fanny Huntington are the same person.