



Grey Roots Archival Material Available Online Mary Williams Trout: Diaries of a Small Town Lady

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The compelling story of Mary Williams Trout (1847 – 1922), of Meaford, is told online through 26 of her personal diaries from the Grey County Archives Collection. From her days as a school teacher through her marriage and the First World War, Trout documents such topics as her religious life, travel, local business, community events, and the many trials and tribulations faced by her friends, family, and neighbours.

Mary Williams was born to parents John and Selina (Brewster) Williams, who were amongst the first settlers of St. Vincent Township. Her father was St. Vincent's first Clerk and Treasurer, and her mother was directly descended of William Brewster, a religious and spiritual leader for the Pilgrims who sailed on the Mayflower.

In 1869, Mary was married to James Trout (1839 - 1906), a well known money-lender, insurance broker, and real estate agent. James' father, William Trout, operated a sawmill which had employed the famous environmentalist, John Muir.

Mary and James were active citizens in their community. They regularly attended meetings, picnics and "socials." These diaries are an excellent record of Mary's life and a fine first-hand account of small town living from a woman's perspective.

The diaries and transcriptions are online now at <http://www.greyroots.com/troutdiaries>. Teachers of grades 2, 3, 7, and 8 will also want to see the Teacher's Programming section for ideas on class discussions and projects.

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About Grey Roots Museum & Archives: Grey Roots Museum & Archives has grown and developed into a unique facility from the County Museum's beginning in 1955 and the later establishment of a County Archives in 2000 in order to promote and preserve the heritage of Grey County. With the consolidation of the Grey County Museum, Grey County Archives, and Tourism in 2004, Grey Roots has become a multi-faceted attraction. Innovative and informative interpretive programs and demonstrations, rotating exhibits, a heritage village, archival resources and superior customer service come together to create an exciting and educational visitor experience.

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