

Journals and Diaries

Many of Prescott's early settlers kept journals or diaries, as did Margaret McCormick, Governor Richard McCormick's wife. Her diary contained a sketch of the floor plan of the Governors Mansion. This helped museum workers when they began to restore the Mansion to the way it looked in 1864. These diaries or journals help us to see what people were thinking or doing in times long past.

On a piece of paper write some journal entries as if you were here in the beginning days of the Arizona Territory. Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

1. Imagine you are Margaret McCormick. You have left a very nice home in the East to start new life in the Arizona Territory. What do you think of your new home? What are the people like? Do you ever get home-sick?
2. You and your family have settled on a ranch in Skull Valley. What is your ranch house like? What chores do you have to do? What about school?
3. You are a member of the new Territorial Legislature. It's your job to make laws for the Arizona Territory. What important laws will you work on first? How will you pay for the new roads that are needed? What about schools? Will the new territory have a college? What are the legislative meetings like?
4. You are a soldier at Fort Whipple. What is your life like? Why did you join the army? Some of the army jobs involved building barracks, roads, and bridges. Some army people worked as policemen, and some were cooks and servants for officers. What kind of job do you do? What do you do for entertainment?

Use one of these ideas, or even better, an idea of your own, and make journal entries telling about your daily life.