

NOTE, to the reader of this Diary:

Mr. Caleb F. Darden, Route 2, Box 687
Lumberton, Texas 77656

informed me in a letter dated July 20, 1978 that the original diary was in two volumes, 1854 to 1861, and 1865 to 1877. He donated the original volumes to the Mississippi Department of Archives & History. Nothing is known by me at this time of any diary for the missing years.

Jewell L. Ross
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August 1, 1978

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May 22: Mr. Davenport came to see Mr. Darden. He brought a letter from Baldwin to Rob. Sillers. It brings the sad news of our dear brother Joseph Sillers. He was taken prisoner about two months ago. Matilda received a letter 7th May, dated 26 April at Vicksburg, stating that he was sick, but not dangerous. Would need money & clothing when he recovered; he could get a boat. He went to see about my dear brother. He had been dead a week; died 6th May of small pox. He saw his physician, and everything was done for him that could be done. He found his grave & marked it. He died so near home and none of his family near to attend. Poor Matilda, what a shock it will be to her. God, help his dear family. Horace Bullen brought home and burried on Sunday.

May 23: Coz. John Darden came, stayed 3 hours. He is so afflicted, can't walk without his crutches.

May 27: Three weeks today--dear brother died within a days travel of home & his poor wife & children were not permitted to be with him. Oh! this cruel war. Mr. Darden rode to Cousin John Darden's. He is so low spirited.

July 2: Mr. Darden went by Brother Sam's. Amelia Green (Norton) has a babe. Bill Green returned home, has been a prisoner since July 1863.

July 3: Brother Buckner stayed with us last night. Four of his negroes left last night with the Yankee wagon-train coming from Brookhaven to Natchez. His oldest negro man Dan that was raised on his Pa's place went off.

July 4: Lieut. Paddock engaged 20 barrels of corn at \$1.00 a barrel. Jalone Stampley bought a load at \$1.25 in green-backs, less if paid in gold. Brother Buckner called; he did not see his negroes. The Major at Washington told him he would send them home if they came there.

July 5: Mr. Hamet got 41 cents of his cotton. Capt. Coffey got 40 cents for his. Cicero Stampley sold 13 heard of cattle to John Stowers; he got \$16.00 a head.

July 9: Martha Darden and Mattie Wade went to the Academy Saturday to see Laura and Irene Darden. Martha is 30 years old today.

July 11: Blount Stuart and Dr. Walker had a fight today. Blount was owing Dr. Walker; he went and reported him to the Yankees. Blount told him he must tell him what he said; he refused to do it; he drew his pistol on Blount. Dr. Walker put his pistol down and Blount slapped him in the face and pulled him about.

July 12: Mr. D. & Jesse went to the examination. Dr. Tate and Olivia came at 10, brought Jimmie & Carrie, left Blount at home, he had a cough & she was afraid it was whooping cough. Sister Betsy & Franklin came at 12. They stayed Mon. night at Bro. Sam's, last night at Bro. Buckner's. Sis. Betsy is in her 62nd year since March.

July 13: We all went to the examination. Mr. Finney preached. Dr. Bemas delivered an address to the young ladies of the school. Miss Lous Smith, Julia Simms & Ragna Montgomery graduated. We all called at Coz. John's (Darden) & Cunningham Whitney was there, she says they can't get any person to hire. She has a white girl but she will leave soon.

July 15: Bob Weatherly & Sam Montgomery eat dinner here. Dr. Tate came up this eve. Mr. Darden went to Ebenezer, eat dinner at Bro. Sam's. Anne sent Sister Betsy a calico dress. Sis Betsy & Ma stayed here tonight. Frank & Jack went on home, they got here after dark. They eat dinner at Coz. Matilda Chambliss.

July 17: Sis Betsy, Ma & Frank went to the graveyard at Old Salem. Mr. Darden went with them.

July 18: Laura, Irene & Jesse went to a picnic at Bill Hall's. Henry Darden with with them. Joe Davenport eat dinner here; he has just got home from Pearl River with his negroes. He says that all Rob Sillers' negroes had left him but old Peter & Bill. Mr. Darden went to Jack's. Sis Betsy & Frank left after dinner, will go to John Collier's tonight. Poor sister, it may be the last time we will meet on this earth. Ma let her take Rhody home with her; she is Dorc's next youngest child. She is 12 years old.

July 19: Lieut. Paddock stayed here last night. Mr. Darden went to Fayette with him. Cicero & Advil Dromgool called this evening. Cicero was very anxious for Laura to go to the party at Jalone Stampley's. Capt. Walton came after dark, he has been out to Pearl River buying cotton.

July 20: Capt. Walton went to Coz. John's. Mr. Darden went with him. Capt. Walton bought Coz. John Darden's cotton between 80-100 bales, gave him \$25, a hundred in gold, to be delivered as soon as he can get it ready. Captain Walton went to see Joe Davenport; he agreed to give him \$20, in gold & \$30, in green backs than he agreed to give him when he bought his cotton 3rd July.

July 22: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, paid Irene's school bill; it was \$191.00. Mr. Tenny paid Laura \$150, there is \$100 due her that will make her get \$27.87 cts. a month. Miss Alice Martin was buried at Beechland on Tuesday; died with congestion of the bowels. She lived with Jeff Briscoe. Now poor Anne will miss her; she has been so much company to Anne since Jeffie's death. Mr. Darden went to Jack's. He heard Henry's horse fell with him yesterday; he was found insensible in the road; he does not know whether the horse fell down or threw him. Dr. Campbell came to see him. His eye & face is bruised & his elbow. We went to the Presbyterian Church; Mr. Hall preached an excellent sermon. There is a Yankee provost Marshall in Fayette. They have been to Capt. Sam Montgomery's to regulate their negroes.

July 24: Bro. Buckner, Rosa & Brown Stewart called out of the rain; they went on to Jack's. They will go to Natchez in the morn Jack & Cate are going to Natchez, too. Ira Robertson came after some peas to plant.

July 26: Gilbert Buie & wife stayed here last night; left at daylight this morn on their way to Natchez. He has married lately; he is 68 yrs. old & she was a widow 45 yrs. old. She has an only daughter, a widow. Mr. Buie's children all are married. Bro. Buckner called, he says cotton is only worth 34 cts. now, been a decline from 54 cts. down to 44 cts. in N. Y. It is 3 years yesterday since Mr. Darden got back from Coffeville where he went to hear particulars of our dear son's death. How many of our friends have died since then.

July 27: Jack has carried 42 bales of cotton to Natchez for us.

July 28: Mr. Darden, Laura & George started to Natchez 20 min. after 3 o'clock this morn. Three years today my dear sister came to visit me when I was in trouble about the death of my dear son. She is gone now to her long home.

July 29: There is two days meeting at New Friendship. Rob Sillers sent after a barrel sugar, flour, box coffee & kit mackerel, that Major brought out on the wagon last week. Lieut. Swing called, he is going to take the male school near Fayette.

Mr. Darden, Laura & George got home after 6 oc. Laura got a white straw with seam in middle of crown, trimmed with white ribbon & pink flowers for \$13.00.

July 30: Mr. Darden went to New Friendship; had dinner on the ground. Olivia wrote that Dr. Blackburn would come out Wed. to operate on her. She wants me to go down. Two yrs. ago today my dear sister & Miss Ida Cotton spent the day here. They have both gone to their long homes.

July 31: Mr. Darden went to Fayette - good many taking the oath. Judge Shackelford charges 50 cents for every one that takes it. Laura Stuart came on horseback for Laura & Irene to go to Pine Ridge with her. Steph Compton was here to buy some sheep from Mr. Darden. Johnny Bondurant came with an invitation to a party at Mr. Grafton's on Pine Ridge.

Aug. 1: Laura, Irene & Lena Stuart left half past 3 this morn; they will go to Mr. Blanchard's to dinner & go to the party tonight at Mr. Grafton's. Bro. George sent a note at 8 oc this morning written by Mattie Valentine, informing us of the sad news of our Sister Anne Briscoe's death. Jeff wanted Ma to go to Beechland today; her carriage was broken & she could not go. Mr. Montgomery wrote to us that Mr. Wilcox had written to him she died between 7 & 8 oc yesterday (31) morning; would be buried at 2 oc today at Beechland where her children are buried. He said Ginnie & Ellen would go but he thought they would be too late. Mr. Darden started 1 oc on horseback; he thought he would get to see Jeff Briscoe & hear the particulars of Anne's death. It is two weeks today since Miss Alice Martin was brought from Jeff's home and buried at Beechland. Poor Jeff, how desolate will his home be now. Anne's smiling face is gone. He has buried all of his family, six children. Steph Compton bought 50 head of sheep at \$1.50 a head. I started to Dr. Tate's at daylight, got there at 8 oc. Maj. Argon & six other Yankees eat breakfast there. They went to tell the negroes they must go to work & take part of the crop. Dr. Tate does not think their talking will do any good. Dr. Blackburn promised to come & perform a surgical operation on Olivia, (she was injured at the birth of her first child) he did not come. Olivia was so disappointed, wanted me to be present when the Dr. performed the operation. I stayed all night. Laura & Irene got home from Mr. Blanchard's at 10; they had a pleasant visit; they went to Mr. Grafton's to the party last night, eat breakfast at Mr. Blanchard's, then came home. Lena Stuart stayed, would come home with her brother that evening. Mr. Darden eat dinner at Mr. Torrey's; he got to Beechland at sundown yesterday. Jeff Briscoe had gone to Mr. Donan's (or Dohan's). Mr. Darden went there (it is a mile from Beechland); Jeff said Anne had a slight chill & fever Fri., had another chill & fever Sat., but did not seem sick much on Sunday; after breakfast she took a chill, became stupid. Jeff said she knew him when they would rouse her up, but did not talk any. She remained in that situation till she died between 7 & 8 oclock. Jeff says she grieved herself so that nature was

exhausted; she grieved so about little Jeffie's death. When Alice Martin died she took her death very hard. Poor Anne was a good hearted woman, so fond of her relations, was so kind to her dear old mother. The last letter she wrote to her Ma (dated July 4) she says, Ma, I want to come to see you all, but I fear coming without my child & not meeting dear Sister Maria will be more than I am able to stand. She said she could not stay away from that sacred spot, the grave where little Jeffie was buried. She did not think then she would be placed by his side so soon. Jeff was very much distressed, he has had so much trouble in the last two years. They went to the burying, did not get home till 12 oc last night. Jeff sent word for Ginnie to come & see her G'ma. I got home from Dr. Tate's after 11 oc. Mr. Darden met Dr. P. H. Wade yesterday, he had been to deliver a load of cotton to Eisman that he sold during the war. Martha wrote that Jimmie was not well, was in bed most of the time.

Aug. 4: Jack went with Ira Robertson to Union Church to hear a funeral sermon preached by Mr. Millsaps.

Aug. 5: Mr. Darden went to Fayette; the members met at Presbyterian Church to make arrangements to get a preacher for Fayette & Ebenezer Churches; adjourned to meet two weeks from today. Morris Rubel has come to Fayette again to live. The Provost Marshal in Fayette has issued orders for all planters to make written arrangements with their negroes about wages since June, 1865. They are to give their names, ages & what class negroes they are. Mr. Darden called to Coz. John's Darden. Jimmie Baldrige ginned 10 bales in three days; he pays him \$15 a month. Mr. Darden saw Coz John's wagon, says the creek was up between here and Natchez.

Aug. 7: Mr. Darden, Laura & Irene went to the Methodist Church. Irene went home with Ella Torrey. Mr. Darden went to Fayette, there was an election to send delegate to be held in Jackson, Miss. Porterfield Farley & Rev. H. M. Youngblood are the candidates. There was two Yankees called to get water.

Aug. 8: Andy drove the carriage to Mrs. Torrey's for Irene & Ginnie Torrey. Irene & Ginnie got home at dark, Ginnie is so changed is not lively like she was when she was here three years ago. There has been many sad, sad changes since then. Bill Sillers sent me a letter written by Nannie Sillers; she writes a good letter, says home is not like home since their dear Papa has been taken from them. Matilda wrote a few lines is so distressed; thinks she will bring Joseph's remains & have them buried. Mrs. Torrey's little Effie has flux.

Aug. 9: Mr. Darden went to Dr. Tate's, all well. Laura, Irene & Ginnie Torrey spent the day with Cate; Ginnie has her girl Caroline with her, she pays her \$10 a month.

Aug. 10: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, saw Dr. Wade, he says Martha has been very sick with neuralgia of the heart; says she suffered greatly. Jimmie is still very delicate. Ginnie Torrey received a letter from Jeff Briscoe he wants her to meet him in

Rodney, Wed. the 16th of Aug. He says he is so lonesome & desolate, wants someone with him that can sympathize with him.

Aug. 11: Olivia & Dr. Tate came at 9 oc.

Aug. 12: Tom Darden & Sue spent the day, also Tom Torrey, they stayed til after 9 oc. Andy drove the buggy after Ginnie Torrey; Ella Torrey came with her this evening.

Aug. 13: Irene went to church, Ginnie & Ella Torrey went with her. Mr. Darden went also. Lena Stuart came home with Irene. Mr. Percy and his sister, Clementine came to Mr. Montgomery's. Ginnie & Ellen M. will go home with them this eve.

Aug. 14: Tully Stuart joined the Mason's, Sat. Mr. Darden went to Fayette; got a blank to fill so he can give in the negroes on the place; the tax is due Sat. We have to pay \$2.00, the negro \$1.00 for 18 years to 50 years. to pay the expenses of feeding the negroes at the camps. Jack called; he had been to Coz. John Darden's to get 2 cows & calves that Capt. Walton bought from Coz. John for \$30.00 each. Ma went home yesterday. Irene & Lena Stuart went with her in the carriage; came back before 10 oc. We need rain so much, have little water in the cistern. Had to haul water from Sol Stampley's creek Sat. to wash with.

Aug. 16: Lewis Bryant's little son died in Washington with flux.

Aug. 22: Henry Darden eat dinner here. Jack Darden & Kie Glidewell came this eve to witness the negroes sign the agreement between them & Mr. Darden. He gives them \$25; the women that suckle \$15.00; those that do not suckle \$18.00. Mr. Darden, Jack, Henry & Kie went bathing in Jalone Stampley's pond. I wrote to Matilda Sillers, sent the letter to Virginia Torrey to carry to Bolivar Co. to her.

Aug. 23: Irene went to Mrs. Mavies to call on Ella Dix; they live near Ike Burch. Ginnie Torrey will leave in the morning. Mr. Bridges that she is engaged to, came to Mr. Torrey's today.

Aug. 24: Mr. Montgomery & Blount Stuart are going to send a petition to President Johnson to ask pardon they will come under the Confiscation Act. They are worth \$20,000. Mr. Darden will send a petition also.

Aug. 25: Mr. Darden started to Natchez at 3 oc. Jack & Kie Glidewell went in the buggy; Mr. Darden put up at Mrs. Coulson; about 2 oc this morning there was a robber came in the room where he and Jeff Key was sleeping, he stole \$150 & a pistol from under Jeff's head, he did not wake. He went to Mr. Darden's bed pulled his pants from under his head. Mr. Darden waked, asked who is that. He ran with the pants, Jeff, & Mr. Darden both said stop thief, but he went on, left his pants in the backyard; he took his pocket book with \$300 in greenbacks, the notes that Jim Rundell gave him, besides other papers. They got our dear son's watch, the last piece of property we had left that belonged to him.

Aug. 27: Mr. Darden, Laura & Irene went to church in Fayette. Mr. Cleveland Rowan called & brought a note from Olivia, all well. Mr. Darden called to see Coz John, he is quite sick with flux.

Aug. 28: Mr. Darden went to Fayette. Mr. Ellet of Port Gibson is charging \$100 for sending the petitions on to Washington City to the President for those that are worth \$20,000.

Aug. 30: Irene went to Blount Stuart's, they were to have company. It is Lena's 15th birthday. Mr. Darden went to town called to see Coz John. He is very sick, things he will not get well; he has not had a physician to see him.

Aug. 31: Mr. Darden went to see Coz John; he is very sick has the flux still. Coz John gave Mr. Darden an order on Baldwin & Fleming for \$250.00 the money he had in his pocket book when it was stolen belonged to Coz John. He got Mr. Darden to sell gold & buy greenbacks.

Sept. 1: Mr. Darden went to see Coz John, he is growing weaker. Cunningham & Wes Whitney was there. Wes found when he got to Illinois that his land had been sold for taxes. His lawyer thought he would get it back. Stanley Thomas called here, he is a candidate for District Attorney.

Sept. 2: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, saw Wes & Cunningham going home said Coz John was very sick last night. Mrs. Duncan & Incy Ashford came stayed till 5 oc.

Sept. 4: Mr. Darden & I went to see Coz John he was dead when we got there; died 15 min of 8 oc. John Fleming and Jim Baldrige laid him out, he was dying from 12 oc yesterday till this morning. Died very hard. Oh! how lonely 'tis to have our friends die. Our family all went to see Coz John buried. Rev. Will Johnson made some excellent remarks. He was buried at the family graveyard where his parents are buried, near his residence. There was a large procession. He was perfectly resigned. Had a shower just as we came from the grave Julia Stuart came home with us, also Samuel & Anna Darden. Sam & Anna went home this evening. Cate Darden went to Natchez today.

Sept. 6: Dr. Maddox & Miss Jennie Osteen were married last night. Mrs. Fox called to get some water.

Sept. 7: Miss Ernestine Watson & Rput Moore will marry tonight.

Sept. 8: Dr. Richardson & Pros Whitney have a drug store in Fayette. Minor Dixon & Dr. Hill, Dr. Greenfield & Lieut. Paddock have drug stores also.

Sept. 12: Irene went to Capt. Harper's yesterday eve, stayed at the Academy today; went to Mr. Dunlan's tonight. John & Dan Fairly stayed there tonight. Mr. Skinner & Mr. Bass came to Natchez from Texas with Frank Montgomery.

Sept. 13: Laura came home this morn. Irene went to her Uncle Blount's to stay till tomorrow with Lena. Blount & Julie went to Natchez. Bell Sillers went with them. Capt. Harper's mother died yesterday evening; she has had diahrrea for a long time. Capt. Harper & wife was in Natchez when she died. She was buried in Fayette.

Sept. 14: I went to see Coz Margaret this morning. Johnny has flux. Sue & Tom went to Natchez. Cunningham Whitney went with them. Sally Dixon is with Coz Margaret; she has a babe 7 months old; her husband was taken out of his bed when they had been married two weeks and hung.

Sept. 15: Brother Sam's wagon came by this evening. Major got in the 9 mile creek, lost box sugar & 30 pounds coffee, like to have been drowned himself.

Sept. 16: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, called at Coz Margaret's; Johnnie has flux, is better. Dr. Richardson has been to see him.

Sept. 18: Mr. Darden went to Mr. Montgomery's to see Frank; he wrote a letter to his sister Mary Scott. Mary Bondurant gave Mr. Darden her brother Jeff Montgomery's photograph.

Sept. 19: Irene started to Dr. Tate's at 9 oc. She will go to Natchez in the morning. Her Pa gave her \$10.00 & I gave her \$10.00; she will have her teeth worked on.

Sept. 23: Martha came down this morn; her babe Blount Stuart has chills and fever yet.

Sept. 25: Mary Baldrige & Hendrickson were married yesterday. Rev. W. Johnson married them. Put Darden and Molly Johnson, Pros. Piercefield & Marry Simms stood up with them. Cate Darden made the bride dress. Sue & Tom Darden were at the wedding. I sent 51 lbs. butter & 2 doz eggs to Natchez. Dr. Chamberlain called at the gate; he is buying cotton.

Sept. 27: Mr. Darden & Laura started to Natchez 15 min after 4 oc this morn. It's a week today since Mr. Skinner & Frank Montgomery left Natchez to go back to Texas. They will move back, Frank will go back to his Pa's place in Franklin Parish; farm there on halves with his Pa.

Sept. 28: Anna Shields an old school mate of Irene's died suddenly. Gabe West & Julia Dixon are to be married tonight.

Sept. 29: Mr. Darden went to Father Robertson's; paid him for the cotton that was over what they owed him when he let Mr. Blanchard have a bale.

Oct. 1: Mr. Darden, Laura & Irene went to Methodist Church in Fayette. Ira Robertson preached, not many there.

Oct. 2: Laura went back to the Academy to teach. Irene went back to school. Mr. Jim Huey called to see us; he has been in the Army 4 years. His parents lived in this county 30 years ago.

He visited them this summer in Illinois. His father is 78 years old; his mother 68. It is a year today since the Yankees took Lum & Jim Cambell.

Oct. 3: Mr. Darden went to Fayette. Dougal McCormick was elected Sheriff. Put Darden & Arch Cameron were beat. Rob McGinty beat Henry Key for Circuit Court Clerk; Chas. Carpenter beat Doug Buie & Gus Guilminot for clerks of Probate Court. I am sorry Put was not elected. Jeff Briscoe called this morn. Ginnie Montgomery was with him; he was going to Jack's to see Ma. Mr. Darden went there this eve. Ginnie Montgomery went home. Mary Bondurant has another daughter a year & 11 months between her children. She is living with her Pa.

Oct. 4: We sent for Ma. Jeff Briscoe came this morn; he is so sad, left without any of his family. Miss Castleman is teaching his sister's children, Rosa & Bettie Scott. They live with him.

Oct. 6: Mr. Darden bought a very large mule from Jonathon McCallum, gave \$200 for it. Dr. Tate got here half past 1 oc. Mrs. Wright came with Olivia. Olivia's babe growing fast.

Oct. 8: Mr. Darden got a letter out of the office for Jack from Virginia Green. She writes Mary has entered graduating class. Ambrose & Willis are going to school in _____.

Oct. 9: Mr. Montgomery settled with Tom Darden at 50 cts a pound for cotton. Mrs. John Grafton of Pine Ridge was here wanting to buy milk cows. I went to see Indian Stampley; her babe is large.

Oct. 21: Bro. Buckner called yesterday eve on his way home; he got 51 cts a lb. for his cotton. Sarah & Lou went to Natchez for him.

Oct. 22: It is four years today since our dear son came home full of joy & life to see Olivia married. He is gone to that home from whence no traveler returns.

Oct. 23: It is four years today since Olivia was married. How happy we all were that day, but oh! the sad change since then. Our dear child was with us. My dear sister was here; dear Sister Maria was here; Charley Scott was here. They are gone to render their account to God. May it be a good one; may they be permitted to sit around the throne of God & sing praises to the most high. Dear Anne Briscoe is numbered with the dea; Dear Brother Joseph has been called away too. What a sad thought when we think of so many that have died, and our unprofitable lives are still spared. Oh! may we improve it, while there is time afforded.

Oct. 25: Brother Buckner called, he is on his way to New Orleans, going to settle with John Watt & Co. John Stampley shot by old Mr. McCullum of Selsertown over stealing a dog.

Oct. 28: Irene wrote that Put Darden & Miss Griffin of Claiborne Co. were married. She is a daughter of David Griffin living near brother George. Mrs. David Harrison & Miss Claudia Gibson returned home from Louisville & Cincinnati, Thurs.

Oct. 30: Brother Buckner got here after 3 oc. Watt & Co. let him off with \$500 interest. Guilford Torrey died about two weeks ago in Bolivar County; he had been in great deal of trouble for sometime about his wife's property. Poor Virginia is left all alone without father, mother, brother or sister. Now I sympathize with her. Her parents had nine children, she is the only one left.

Nov. 1: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, took the photographs for Ma to the Academy for Ellen Montgomery to take home to her G'ma.

Nov. 5: Pros Whitney had his babe baptized; he will go to New Orleans to attend the medical lectures, will be gone till spring. Mr. Darden went to Fayette with R. Compton & Jack to assess the hire of Miss Elenora Smith's negroes. Jack had his bond fixed up for the delivery of 20 bales of cotton to Eisman in case he gains the suit. Mr. Darden went on his bond.

Nov. 7: Mr. Darden, George & I went to Coz Margaret's to see Put & his bride; she is rather good looking.

Nov. 8: Brown Stewart & Maj. John called; had been to Natchez. They said good cotton was worth 50 cts a lb. Mr. Darden went to Dr. Tate's, Olivia has Dengue, old Mr. Tate has it too. Dr. Tate had it three weeks ago. Olivia is up but says she is weak & sick.

Nov. 10: Dr. Darden received a letter from Sister Mary Scott; she is very much dissatisfied with Texas. The people living there do not suit her; she says the most of her negroes left when they found they were free. Jim Rundell was a soldier died in a hospital in Marshall, Texas; his family was in Arkansas when she heard from them last.

Nov. 11: Laura got an invitation to dinner party at Capt. Sam Bullen's today.

Nov. 12: Dr. Tate & Olivia came at dark. Olivia is not well. Dr. Tate went home. Mr. Darden went to church, Clara Montgomery told him old Mrs. Harrington died yesterday eve with typhoid fever. Mr. Harrington was in New Orleans. I was sorry to hear of her death, she always seemed like a relation, was such a motherly lady. Martha wrote to me that Blount was sick the reason she did not come Sat. Dr. Wade & the lawyers for Mrs. Wade & the children, Mattie, Sallie & James Taylor were to meet in Fayette today to settle their business. Laura & Irene got a ticket to Mattie Wade's wedding next Wed. 22nd Nov. Mr. McCullum of Selsertown was having his trial in Fayette today for killing John Stampley.

Nov. 16: Mr. Torrey recieved a letter from Daniel Cameron; he says Guilford Torrey was sick with fever 10 days, died. It is two years today since Blount sent for me to see my dear sister; she was so sick vomiting. How many changes since then may we watch and pray for we know not when our time will come.

Nov. 20: Mary Bondurant's little girl, Della has been sick with cholera morbus. John Bondurant started home today, took Johnny with him. George is seven years old today.

Nov. 22: I went to see Mrs. Harrison. I met Laura & Irene, Clara & Ginnie Montgomery. Julia & Lena Stuart were not invited. They would go to Dr. Wade's & then to Rosswood to Mattie Wade's wedding. She married Dunbar B. Wade; they are first cousins.

Nov. 23: Miss Manda Guice & Kel Shaifer went to the wedding. Olivia was in Natchez Wed. to see if Dr. Page could relieve her from affliction. Two years ago my dear sister was suffering so much; she is free from trouble & pain now.

Nov. 24: Willis Chamberlain died this week; Cousin Myra has been sick with consumption.

Nov. 26: Dr. Tate came at 11 oc; stayed till half past 3 oc., left Johnnie at home. Olivia expected to go to New Orleans next week when she came, but Dr. concluded to wait till he was done ginning & packing his cotton. Olivia went to Natchez. Dr. Page examined her, told her he had been successful in many cases, but he could not say he would be successful with her. She has concluded to go to New Orleans. Miss Jane Drake married Mr. Willis living near Port Gibson. Mr. Darden was hunting with Cicero, Sam & Jeff Stampley; they killed 22 squirrels. It is two years today since Julia Stuart and Anna Darden called going to Natchez.

Dec. 2: There is two or three companies of negro soldiers in Fayette; I wonder what they are sent there for? Jack's Susan went to the Provost Marshal, he told her he did not have her name on his books. She came back home & moved her things to Sol Stampley's. Jack gave her a few licks the reason she went to the Marshal. Laura went home with Lou Darden to see Annette & her husband, Mr. McMillan.

Dec. 3: Captain Thompson & his men were here last night hunting arms. They took Paton's old gun from him. The negroes thought they had come to conscript them. Cicero's Tom was here, he ran, Capt. Thompson shot at him; he fell when the gun fired, got up ran again, Capt. T. spurred his horse and caught him. He was very much frightened. Capt. Thompson caught a negro soldier, had been to Cicero's, had some meat & meal he had got from Cicero. Capt. T. caught Tom Darden's Hay's with a hog taking it to Fayette; they took him to jail. Rev. John M. Jones preached old Mrs. Armstrong's funeral today; she was 81 years old.

Dec. 4: Mr. Sid Bass came here after 1 oc. He came with a note that his father held against Mr. Darden. It was given to George Lamb for overseeing on our place in the swamp. Mr. Darden agreed to meet Mr. Bass in Natchez on Wed. Mr. Bass brought a letter from Mary Scott; she is anxious to get back to her home in the swamp. She says her negroes have all left her but five. She has her old driver & the boy, Dr. Bass had in the army with them. She says the negroes are going about from place to place in rage; will not work. Mr. Skinner will not move from Texas all this time. Mat Skinner was with her when she wrote. Frank Montgomery had moved to Franklin Parish. He did not go to see Mary after his return to Texas from Mississippi. Mr. Sid Bass says there is no person living in the neighborhood in Madison Parish, La., where Mary Scott, Mr. Bass, our son Buckner & our place was. It is a desolation; the fences have been washed away by the overflow. I have felt so sad since Mr. Bass, came it brought everything fresh in my mind about my dear son Buckner. Mr. Bass was a neighbor and a comrade in his company. I felt like I had known him hearing Buckner speak of him so often. Mr. Bass says they have lost everything. He says Capt. Wirz's that was executed by Federal Authority lately for treating the Fed. prisoners so cruel at Andersonville, Ga., was a Dr. at Milligans Bend before the war. He does not think he was guilty. Mr. Bass went home; he lives in Adams City, 8 miles from Kingston. Cate went to see Sol Stampley about letting Susan go there to live.

Dec. 6: Bell Sillers expected to start to Bolivar today to see her brothers & sisters. I wish I could see Matilda Sillers & her dear children. Tom Darden came to see Mr. Darden about working the road. He says Hays is in jail yet.

Dec. 7: Mr. Darden got home from Natchez at 12 oc. He saw Mr. Bass, paid the George Lamb note \$480.00, he did not pay the interest. Mr. Bass is executor of his estate. If the heirs exact interest; Mr. Darden went home with Dr. Tate from Natchez last night. Cotton has got down to \$40.00 a hundred.

Dec. 8: Tom Darden bailed Hayes out of jail, went his security for \$100.00. Tom sent Dallas to borrow the little rifle from Mr. Darden; Tom was hunting hogs when Mr. Darden saw him. He says Alex is very anxious for him to bail him out of jail. Alex is in jail for stealing Mr. Merchant's mule. Coz Margaret is not willing for him to come there.

Dec. 9: It is two years today since my dear sister died.

Dec. 10: The freed women are doing so bad. Cannot get them to go to the pen with Lucinda to milk. I wish I could get hold of them with a good cowhide. Blount Stuart told Mr. Darden he would start to New Orleans, Tues. Julia had written to Laura to be ready to go with them. Jeff Montgomery's widow was at church today. Mr. Darden said it made him think of poor Jeff and our

dear son Buckner; Clara introduced her to Mr. Darden. She said she would come to see us. Henry Darden came by to dinner. There was a Capt. & 20 negro soldiers went to Fayette this morn after a negro that belongs to Hugh Montgomery. He had been put in jail for stealing a horse. Capt. Sam Montgomery bailed him out of jail & he was at home at work. The Yankee told Villines he would hold him prisoner till the negro was produced. Villines went with him to Capt. Sam Montgomery's. They passed here as they went to Natchez. They had the negro.

Dec. 11: Blount will start to N. O. tomorrow; Julia will come to the Academy. We will send for her & Laura to come here.

Dec. 13: Mr. Darden, Laura & Julia Stuart started to N.O. half past 7. They all went in the buggy; Ben drove. We killed 6 hogs, cut them up & salted them. Dr. Richardson sent for Mr. Darden to haul him 11 barrels corn this week.

Dec. 14: Killed six more hogs. Cut up & stuffed 34 pounds sausage meat. Ben got home from Natchez 5 oc, he says Mr. Montgomery, Clara & Ginnie were on the boat also, Mr. Torrey going to N.O.

Dec. 15: Jesse says his Uncle Jack Darden killed 11 hogs.

Dec. 19: Bro. Buckner came half past 12 oc., stayed to dinner. Jeff Montgomery's widow came half after 10 oc. She is very pleasant; has two nice little children. The little boy is named Jesse Yancey, the little girl Jeffie Maria. The boy is named after Mr. Darden, the girl named for her dear father & Grandma. It made me think so much of poor Jeff, when I saw his wife & his helpless children. Oh! this cruel war, what trouble & distress it has caused. Lizzie Hicks sent for 6 lbs. butter. Mr. Darden got home after dark; he left N. O. Sat. eve. Did not get to Natchez till Monday night. The boat (Fashion) was 12 hrs. behind time. Laura stayed in N. O. with Blount, Julia, Mr. Montgomery, Clara & Jennie. Mr. Darden paid Mr. Watt \$4000. Took the interest which was \$1000 off & \$253.68 off the face of the note. Mr. Watt was very sour & unaccomodating he would not take a draft on Mr. Darden's merchants, Fleming & Baldwin. Mr. Darden got a certificate saying he would give up his note when he received the money. Fleming & Baldwin will write to their merchants in N. O. to pay the debt. I hope we are done with Mr. Watt forever. Mr. Montgomery & Blount did not settle with him; they said he must deduct half of what they owed him. Mr. Darden bought fruits in Natchez for Xmas. He bought a barrel of apples, gave \$8 got 2 barrels of flour, Irish potatoes, onions, barrel sugar, half sack coffee, coal oil. Hiram Chambliss died at Lake Providence last week, killed himself drinking, they brought him to his mother's to bury him. Bell Sillers went to Natchez this eve to visit her sister in Bolivar Co. She was at Mrs. Branch's when Mr. Darden met her. Merriman was driving her; she had all the children. Dick Bell came up on the boat with Mr. Darden, he says Matilda Sillers is not getting along well.

Dec. 20: They sent a ticket to Wallace Montgomery's burying today; he died at Mrs. Pearcefield with typhoid fever.

Dec. 21: Cate, Jack, Mr. Drake & Mollie Davenport went by going to the concert.

Dec. 22: Ben drove the carriage for the girls. Irene & Miss Nanie McCaleb came home. Laura did not get back. Miss Anna Byrne would not come.

Dec. 23: Sue Darden spent the day. Jack called, stayed short time. Henry Darden came after dark, it rained, he stayed all night.

Dec. 24: Mr. Darden went home with Sue this evening. Henry went home this evening. Laura went to dinner party at Capt. Harper's; did not come home tonight. Mr. Darden has been busy settling with the negroes today. Tom Darden spent the evening here; Miss Nanie McCaleb is here.

Dec. 26: Mr. Darden went to Jack's, everyone of his negroes are going to leave. Jack is troubled about their leaving. Elic came from his sister Betsy's today, left there yesterday. Sister Betsy writes all of theirs will leave but a very old woman. She said Elic said he would stay with them, but she did not know whether he would or not. Jack, Henry & Johnny Robertson came at dark, stayed to supper. Tom Torrey & Tom Darden came just as we finished eating. Jack had a talk with Tom Darden about hiring Washington. Washington is going to marry Linda, Coz Margaret's cook.

Dec. 27: Mr. Darden, Laura & Irene went to the Masonic feast; there was a great display of regalia & ceremonies. Tom Reed spoke in the Methodist Church. The dinner was in the yard at the Presbyterian Church. Laura & Irene went to the concert at the Academy for Mr. Herman's benefit. They went to Mrs. Torrey's from the concert. Miss Nanie McCaleb went home with Lena Stuart. Laura spent Xmas day & night at Capt. Harper's.

Dec. 28: Julia Stuart wrote to me she wanted me to make her some cake; she is going to give Lena & Sid Briscoe a dance next week.

Dec. 29: Willie Marschalk was arrested & carried to Natchez under a negro guard for a piece that he published in his paper headed Military Rule. Dr. Turpin & Miss Farley were married.