

- - 1868 - -

Jan. 2: Mr. Darden went to Jack's, Sallie Dixon has left Cate. Walter Devane first Coz. of mine came at 1 oc., he is going back home to where his parents live in Alabama. What he made overseeing is lost before the war. William Sillers owes him several thousand dollars; his property been sold by the Sheriff & made over to his wife. Blount Stuart owes him.

Jan. 4: Walter Devane left after breakfast, went as far as Fayette with Mr. Darden. He will go back to Blount & leave Tues. for home.

Jan. 5: Miss Lottie Wade had a letter from Sallie Wade at Chattanooga. She said Julia had to be lifted about still.

Jan. 6: Mr. Darden went to Fayette to meet Dr. Wade; he is going to deed his property to Martha.

Jan. 7: Mr. West came at 2 oc., he is distressed about his place; it had a mortgage of \$3000 on it. He paid \$2000 can't raise the balance. Col. Hamilton who rented his place is not able to pay him anything. His merchant failed & he will loose all. He rented his place for \$2500.

Jan. 8: Mr. Darden went by Tom Darden's; then went to Fayette. Baldwin & Fleming sent Tom Darden's account to Mr. Darden; it was \$2040. Mr. West went back home this morning. I made up 4 measures in scale for Irene's wedding.

Jan. 12: Harvey brought a letter from Nannie McCaleb to Lizzie Connel thinking she was here. We started Lum to Natchez with the carriage at 11 oc to meet Mr. West & Miss Connell & Cage.

Jan. 13: Dr. Chamberlain has sold the mortgage he has on Cicero's Stampley place to George Jones. Jone gives Mr. Stampley 1000 acres on the Collier tract to sign the deed to the part of the land where the dwelling & gin is on. I feel sorry that they have to give up their nice home.

Jan. 14: I sent Joe to invite Lena to Irene's wedding.

Jan. 15: Mr. Darden went to Fayette with Mr. West to get his license. Brought Rev. Mr. Hall out to perform the ceremony. Dr. Wade & Martha got here at 2 oc. Clara & Ellen Montgomery & Eva Seymour were here. Mr. & Mrs. Montgomery did not come. Lena & Henry Darden came. Mr. John Connell, Miss Lizzie Connell, Miss Nonie Cage & Miss Bettie Cage came from Natchez this morning in a hack. The hackman charged them \$18 to bring them out. Mr. Connell & Ellen, Henry & Miss Connell stood up with Irene. Martha & Laura fixed bundles of cakes for Mrs. M., Smith, Jennie Percy, Mrs. Connell, Mrs. Dick West, Lena Stuart, Cate, Olivia, Martha, Mrs. Hall and Willie Marschalk. This is the last night poor Irene will stay at home. She has no idea how lonely she will feel when she gets so far from home.

Jan. 16: Laura leaves in the carriage with Miss Connell & Miss Cage. Mr. West & Irene goes in Martha's carriage. Mr. Connell & Mr. Darden driving working the grey horse & a mule. It was a sad parting for us all to give up Irene. We must expect that when our children are grown. Jesse is 14 years old today. Mr. West is 22 years old today.

Jan. 17: The boat will get to Bayou Sara at dark this evening. Mr. West & Irene will go to Capt. Dick West's. Mrs. West will give them a dinner party tomorrow. Laura will go to N. Orleans to spend a month or two.

Jan. 20: Dr. Richardson has bought Minor Dixon's house for \$1500. Paid half.

Jan. 21: Mary Lou Harper & Capt. Put Darden were married at 10 oc. this morning, very private. Jeff Whitney has moved his family to his mother's.

Jan. 22: Mr. Darden went to Jack's. Johnnie Robertson's wife lost her babe, seven or eight months old.

Jan. 23: Mrs. Sam Winston died suddenly last Thursday.

Jan. 24: Mr. Darden went to Dr. Tate's; all well. Mr. Skinner & Bob Pipes dined at Dr. Tate's. Mr. Skinner is going to plant on the Dan Smith place in partnership with Bob Pipes. Cotton was selling in Natchez yesterday for 12 3/4.

Jan 27: Mr. Darden went to Fayette; Mr. Montgomery tol him Tom Percy went to Tip Montgomery's this morn. Jesse started to school this morn. He has not been able to go since 26th Sept. has had chills & fever.

Jan. 30: Mrs. Stampley sent her piano over this morn. for me to take care of till they move.

Feb. 5: Capt. Sam Montgomery & wife called at 1 oc. they stayed with Tom Percy last night. Mrs. Fowler's babe lived a week. Victor Meyer is going to close a mortgage he has on their place & sell them out.

Feb. 6: Andrew Montgomery, son of old Hugh Montgomery died in Madison County lately with pneumonia. Leaves a family of 10 children, good many small. Miss Lizzie Scott & Tom were married last Tues 4th. Mr. Darden received a letter from Spaff. Miles; he is security for Cicero on a note \$200. He says he is not bound as Mr. D. let Cicero sell his cotton; cover up his property & stood by sleeping on his rights & not take any steps to collect it. Oh? There is so little confidence to put in men now.

Feb. 8: Mr. Darden went to Church, was none. Saw Brother Buckner; he is looking much better & in better spirits. Eisman is furnishing him supplies for this year. Rosa Stewart has had another misfortune; her babe had to be taken from her. Poor child, how I feel for her! She is lame & delicate.

Feb. 11: I received a letter from Laura; she is not well. Will leave for Irene's by the 18th Feb. Mr. Montgomery sent us an invitation to Ellen's wedding, to be 19th. The gentleman is a widower 31 years old; he has a little boy 5 years old; his mother lives with him in Thibadeaux. His name is Goode, is a lawyer. Ellen & Irene graduated together. Three months difference in their ages & great friends. All Mr. Montgomery's family have married & left him. If he had not married again, he would have been free from trouble now.

Feb. 12: Mr. Armistead came this eve; wants Mr. Darden to furnish him with supplies. Mr. Darden did not agree to it.

Feb. 16: Mr. Darden went to Church. Mr. Glenn the new preacher preached. Mr. James McCaleb had his crib with his corn & peas burnt. What a misfortune.

Feb. 17: Jack came here to meet Cicero. Johnnie Robertson & Cicero are contending about a hog; they both claim him. Cicero did not come. Mr. Darden gave back an order on Fleming & Baldwin for 20 sacks corn, etc.

Feb. 18: Mr. Darden went where Cicero is building his house; it is beyond the Collier houses. Alex Compton is the carpenter. It is 20 by 22 feet with gallery & shed room.

Feb. 19: Mr. Darden, George & I went to Mr. Montgomery's to see Ellen married. They changed the time & we were too late to see the ceremony performed. They had just sit down to breakfast. Austin, Clara, Tom & Jennie & Sam were there. Dr. Richardson & his son & daughter & Emma Harrison were guests. Mr. Hall performed the ceremony - called Mr. Goode. Joseph S. Montgomery did not correct his mistake. Mr. Goode is small, good looking, light hair & whiskers; is a lawyer, a widower with a son five years old. They left before 11 oc for Rodney, take a boat to N. O. from there by the cars within three miles of his home in Thibadeaux. It was a sad parting, Mr. Montgomery embraced Ellen & cried freely. So did the girls. We got home after 1 oc left Clara & Austin & Sam there. Jennie & Tom went home. Brother Sam & Buckner came, they went to Jack's. Lou & Cate are still with Annette in Monticelloe. They expected to go to N. Orleans with their sister.

Feb. 20: Jennie Torrey was married on the 6th. Feb. to Mr. James McGee of Bolivar. Ma has only four granddaughters old enough to marry.

Feb. 21: Mrs. Dixon sent a dollar for some meat; says she does not know how she is to live unless her Uncle Jack Burch sends her the money he owes her.

Feb. 22: Mr. Darden went to Steph Stampley's to collect \$30 he owes for peas bought last year; could not pay him anything. Olivia wrote to us, she thought her babe would die been sick two weeks. Mr. Darden & I went, found the poor thing suffering so much. Has dropsy of the brain. It's bowels are very bad.

Feb. 23: The babe did not look like it would live; had spasms most of the day. Mr. Darden came home after dinner. Called at the Dan Smith place to see Mr. Skinner. He is very much discouraged about making crop with freedmen. Aunt Hannah that belonged to Mr. Smith, died at Steph Stampley's depot place last night.

Feb. 25: Mr. & Mrs. James Rowan are both sick. Mrs. Alf Rowan is sick, too. The babe is worse today. Old Mr. David Kinnison died first week in Jan. His house is occupied by freedmen now.

Feb. 26: Mr. Darden got to Dr. Tate's after 11 oc. We started home after 2. I hate to leave Olivia; she is so distressed about her babe, but it lingers so long.

Feb. 29: Mrs. Dixon, Dewitt & Rosa eat dinner here. She came to buy meal says she does not know she is to get provisions for her family. Can't get sewing or a school.

Mar. 2: Mr. Darden went to Dr. Tate's. The babe is still insensible, nurses yet. It has been sick three weeks & half. Brother Sam eat dinner at Dr. Tate's Sat. Mr. Skinner eat dinner there today. Mr. Skinner rode in the creek; the sand was so bad he had to jump off in the creek; got wet his horse got out after sometime.

Mar. 3: Dr. Turpin called, he says he assisted Dr. Coleman in amputating a freedman's leg that Mr. Ben Bullen shot. He gave Mr. Bullen some impudent. Mr. B. pushed him, the negro struck Mr. B. Mr. B. told him he would shoot him. The negro said he would shoot too & went to his horse loaded his gun but had no cap on it. Mrs. Bullen & Madora went in & got his gun. Mr. B. called him to come out his house; he came advancing, Mr. B. told him he would shoot, he did not intend to shoot so high; it broke his leg, near the groin; he lived an hour after his leg was cut off. Had a letter from Irene, she would commence her garden on 19th Feb. Mr. West had only four hands. Mr. Willie West has four. They work them separate.

Mar. 4: Dr. P. H. & Allison Wade dissolved partnership this morning. He began with ten hands. Dr. received a letter from his brother Johnnie. Julia's health is poor, is not able to leave her room often.

Mar. 6: Ed Hicks came home with Jesse.

Mar. 7: Mrs. Cicero Stampley had twin girls yesterday. She has five children. Moved home this week to her log house. Jennie Torrey wrote to her G.ma, she was comfortably situated in a log house three miles from Carson's landing. Mr. McGehee had a store at Carson's landing. Had a place 600 acres; plenty of good milk & fine stock. She was thankful God had sent her a protector when she was so much in need of one. Bill Robert's son came today to get Mr. Darden to furnish him supplies. He did not do it.

Mar. 8: Henry Darden said his Aunt Martha Stewart's crib was broken open Fri. night, nearly all her corn taken.

Mar. 9: Mr. Darden went to Dr. Tate's. Her poor babe is worse, its head is drawn back & its back is drawn too, throws its head from side to side. Been sick nearly five weeks.

Mar. 10: Found the colts in Tom Darden's pasture near Pa's old gin.

Mar. 13: I was ready to go to Dr. Tate's when Olivia wrote me her dear little babe died last night 20 min. of 11. She screamed out all during the day as if she was frightened. And two hours before she died had several hard convulsions. Died easy when the breath went out of her. Mr. Darden, George & I went. Mr. Jim Rowan went to Natchez for the coffin. It was a plain painted, the color of mahogany, lined inside with a little pillow raised in the lining, it was \$12. Mr. Alf Rowan, his son, Glenn, Mr. Jim Rowan & his son, Mr. Skinner & Mr. Norman were at the burying. Dr. & Lee were willing to give her up, she has suffered so much.

Mar. 14: Mr. Darden & George came home. I stayed with Olivia.

Mar. 20: Ma fell last night, hurt herself so she can't walk today; has to lie in bed. There is \$50 reward offered for Israel Owans (colored). He broke out of Meadville jail & sent to Dr. David King's while they were at supper, took a trunk to the front gate, broke it open took between \$1600 & \$1700. It was a bold act.

Mar. 22: It is six years today since our dear son wrote to us from New Orleans telling us he was there drilling to go in the Army.

Mar. 23: Dr. Tate sent for fly mule, but Mr. Darden had sold her to Mrs. Jalone Stampley for \$40. Mat Skinner has moved from Natchez to the Smith place near Dr. Tate's.

Mar. 24: Frank Montgomery came wanted Mr. Darden to furnish him with supplies. He did not do it. Had two letters from Laura. She left Mobile 19th, wrote from N. O. on the 20. She is at Irene's by this time. Capt. Weatherly would come as far as Bayou Sara with her.

May 13: Mr. Darden took Jeff Davis to Dr. Tate's for Lee to ride home. They eat dinner with Mr. Skinner. Mat & Maria came home with them.

May 14: Olivia, Johnie & George went with me to Dr. Wade's. Mattie Wade called little while at Dr. Wade's; she was going to Mr. Lawrence Wade's. Mary Scott came to Dr. Tate's yesterday. Stayed at Mr. Skinner's last night. Came here with Dr. Tate after 5 oc., then went with Mattie & Maria to Jack's. Dr. Tate & Olivia stayed here all night.

May 16: Mr. Darden went to Jack's with Dr. Tate & Olivia. Mat went home with them this morning. Laura & George went to Jack's to see Mary Scott. There was a dispatch came to Fayette, that two men were fighting & Howell Hinds had to part them, he was struck with a dirk, died immediately. The other man died next morning.

May 19: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, received a letter from Virginia McGehee. She writes she is doing well since she married. They still fear the water will come over. They live near Dr. Mayson's. Mag is having chills.

May 20: Jesse took Virginia McGehee's letter to Ma. Mr. & Mrs. Davenport went there this evening.

May 22: Laura went in the carriage for Ma and Mary Scott.

May 24: Olivia is here, says they had a hail storm last Sat. night ruined Dr. Wade's crop. Laura, Jesse, George & Mr. Darden went to Church. Mr. Montgomery had their baby baptized today.

May 25: There was a meeting in Fayette to nominate candidates to the Legislature. Nominated Ely Jones. Brother Same came from Fayette to dinner with Mr. Darden. Lum drove Laura to Mr. Torrey's. Laura called on the Miss Jones in Fayette.

May 27: Lum went for Laura, she came at dark, was pleased with Dr. Beard from Bolivar.

May 29: It is six years today since our dear son wrote his last letter to us from the hospital where he died so far away from all his friends. Laura received a letter from Julia (Stuart) Wade. She is sick in bed, very anxious to get back to Jefferson.

May 30: I went with Ma & Mary Scott to Jack's. Mr. Glenn preached there this evening at 4 oc. Robertson & Baldwinge there. Jalone Stampley & Elenora Smith are to be married Tues. They are first cousins. He is separated from his wife & she lives in the neighborhood. How strange some people act.

May 31: Mr. Darden, Jesse & George went to hear Mr. Glenn preach to the children.

June 1: Mr. Darden went to Dr. Tate's with Mary Scott.

June 2: Jalone Stampley was married today to his 1st cousin, Elenora Smith. His wife is living near & was not willing for him to marry or to leave her when he separated from her.

June 7: Mr. Darden went to Bethel instead of Fayette, called at Coz Sarah Stowers. She had a letter from Anne E. Clark says Frank Montgomery's oldest daughter, Loulie, died lately. She was sick for 5 weeks, was 19 years old.

June 9: Old Aunt Bell died at the poor house Sat morn. She was the first negro my father owned; was quite old.

June 10: Mr. Darden went to Dr. Wade's; Dr. Wade very much discouraged about the dry weather. Mattie Dunbar Wade was there.

June 11: Laura received a letter from Rev. Mr. Johnson saying he could not say whether he would need her as a teacher in Brookhaven Institute or not. Capt. John Cameron called this evening for water. Dr. Guice is tending on Cicero's little Zeb. His horse threw him & broke his arm. Mr. Darden went to the Pres. Church near Dr. Wade's to a Communion meeting.

June 14: Laura, Jesse, George & I went to the Pres. Church. Lena Stuart came home with us. Mr. Darden came back this evening, had a good meeting. Brother Sam & Dr. McNair dined at Dr. Wade's. Mr. Price preached.

June 15: There was a Democratic meeting on the creek near Sol. Stampley's. Dick Truly & Capt. Schwing spoke.

June 16: Laura & Lena went to Fayette expecting to go to Mr. Hick's to a surprise party.

June 19: Laura & Lena went to Capt. Harper's to call on Miss Emma Coulson. Called on Coz Mary Richardson. Mr. Darden went to Torrey's pasture near Fayette to hear the Radicals speak. Kearns & Spaff Miles spoke; great many negroes there.

June 20: Mr. Darden, Jesse & George went to the Democratic barbacue in Torrey's pasture. Most of the negroes went. Judge Cassidy & Mayor Millen spoke before the dinner. Mr. Hicks & Judge Shackelford spoke after dinner; great crowd there. Alderson & Dick Truly passed the lie yesterday evening Alderson run & had the Yankee soldiers there directly.

June 21: Mr. Darden went to Ebenezer to hear Rev. Burgess preach. Went to dinner at Brother Buckner's.

June 24: We got Mr. James Brandon & wife's card (Miss Anne Archer) Sat. They have been married a month. Joe Davenport lost his office as Assistant Assessor for United States Revenue taxes. I feel sorry for him, he has a large family. He has been in office two years last Feb.

June 25: Mr. Darden went to Fayette to vote. Pros. Whitney & Capt. Wright are Democratic candidates for Legislature, and Ely Jones for the Senate. Mr. Kearns & Spaff Miles for Radicals & Alderson for Senate.

June 26: The Democrats are 9000 ahead the last news; Franklin went 500 majority for Democrats.

July 3: Mr. Dan Cameron's son dined here, he is assessing for Dan Fairly. John Williams is at Jack's; he was a Confederate soldier.

July 5: Dr. Ben West has come back to Fayette. George Jones & Mr. McNeill called a while this morning. The citizens of Fayette are discouraged about the returns of the election.

July 7: Fleming & Baldwin wrote that they had tremendous Democratic procession in Natchez Sat. eve. Rejoicing over our majority of 7000. Gen. Martin elected to Congress by 1000 majority. Good news for this state. President Johnson has proclaimed pardon to all except those under indictment. Why could not have done this before the election.

July 8: John Williams came from John Guice's says there was rain from Kinnison's on to Jack's.

July 11: Mr. Darden went to Fayette to see the Radical Constitution buried. There was a procession with boxes with lights in them, the sides taken out & tissue paper with different mottos on them. Had a small coffin with the Constitution & some hair; had the coffin in the Hearse, buried it in the public square between Rubel's & Guilminote's; stamped on the grave & built a big fire on it; had an old Ram tied, calling him Allison. Calling out for old bald head Miles asking for Kearns; a big to do generally. It looks like mockery to me.

July 14: Brother George came at 3 oc. was in a rain near Tom Darden's. Martha Darden's father, Alex Bolls, died last Sat., had a cancer that had nearly eat his nose off, took too much morphine went to sleep did not wake any more. The first death George has had in his family since he was married nearly 22 years. George begins to look old. He went to Jack's this evening.

July 15: Mr. Darden went to Fayette saw Mr. Montgomery, he told him Jennie Percy's babe had to be masked before it could be born. Tom thought it would have weighed 14 lbs. Clara Smith lost her babe about eight months. Mary routh an orphan about 12 years old living with Mrs. Smith, died last week. Ellen Goode expected to come home this summer, but her health is so she can't come. Mr. Montgomery gave Mr. Darden a letter from his son Pros., he writes a flattering letter about his prospects. Expects to marry a Miss Cook about 26 years old. His wife has been dead 15 months; says his daughter is 11 years old, very smart. Mr. Nathan Coffey was buried yesterday in Fayette; had brain fever a week. Has a wife and grown son.

July 16: Mr. Darden & Brother George started to Brother Buckner's 7 oc. It rained from Gravelly Hill to Buckner's. There was a large picnic given in honor of the Democratic President Seymour & Blair for Vice President. They went to Buckner's, danced all night. Annette & Mr. McMillan left Buckner's this evening on their way home. Annette has been there three weeks. Will go to Mr. Cato's tonight, to Brookhaven tomorrow & home Saturday.

July 19: Edgar Coffey was buried yesterday. His father died Monday with brain fever; he died Monday with the same fever, was not conscious while he was sick. Tom Darden said it was the saddest funeral he ever attended. Sid Briscoe, Will Torrey, Beverly Hicks, Dunk Chamberlain were pall bearers. They were his college mates. Had not been long from Oxford. His mother is left all alone, her husband & son taken from her in four days. How sad she must be; death has so little effect on persons now. I received a note from Olivia, Johnnie had gone home with Robert that morning. Miss Lee Bryant was buried on Monday.

July 22: Old Uncle Henry that belonged to Jalone Stampley died yesterday, very old.

July 23: Mr. Darden received a letter from Mr. Dan Huey; he lives in Illinois, formerly lived in Mississippi.

July 25: Laura & Jesse dined at their Uncle Prosper's. Laura went with Lena to a musical entertainment at Judge Shackelford's.

July 27: Laura received a letter from Clara Smith; they have all been sick. She is able to walk on the gallery. Her babe was a girl. There was no lady at Saragossa but Clara when Mary Routh died.

July 28: Tom Darden sent Laura an invitation to a surprise party at Capt. Harper's.

July 31: I received a letter from Brother Robert Sillers; he is just recovering from a spell of swamp fever. Emmitt has chills. Rob worked seven hands.

Aug. 2: Mr. Darden and George went to Church (Methodist), heard Jim Johnson very sick. Ed Smiley came while we were eating dinner was going to Natchez. He is studying medicine; attended lectures in Baltimore last winter. He is so improved, quite polished. Laura says we would not imagine he hailed from Union Church.

Aug. 5: Tommie Scott came at 4 oc., from Jeff Briscoe's. Jeff's health has been bad all the year. Has fine crop, works 60 hands.

Aug. 6: Tommie Scott started home to Dr. Bass's at 5 oc. Jesse went with him.

Aug. 7: Lewis Pipes living near Natchez died suddenly two weeks ago, he was an old citizen.

Aug. 10: Mr. Montgomery's carriage passed after 11 oc. Mr. Goode, Ellen & their son Frank was to come. Jennie & Tom Percy was to come. Dr. Tate & Olivia came at 6 oc.

Aug. 11: Dr. Tate & Olivia went to Jack's. Tennessee Davenport & G-ma Johnson went while they were there. Old Mr. Tate came at 10 oc., went to Jack's tonight.

Aug. 13: Laura & George got home 8 oc., Laura went to Wilson Wade's yesterday eve., called on Mrs. Metcalf; she is a widow with two children. Mollie Wade lives with her. She is a first coz. of Irene's husband, Mr. West. Laura went to picnic; they danced all night at Dunbar Wade's. Joseph Morris was shot in the leg by a man in P. Gibson with whom he had a difficulty. Laura had a letter from Julia Wade; she is afraid she never will be well. Laura received a letter from Mr. Paine, principal of Silliman Institute at Clinton, La. He can't say yet whether he can give her a situation as a teacher or not.

Aug. 15: Mr. Darden took Johnnie home; he disliked to go, said he was Grandma's boy.

Aug. 17: Dr. Richardson & wife, Ella Torrey & Emma Harrison called on Jennie & Ellen this morn. Lena Stuart called this eve. Mr. Goode was anxious to come here this eve., Ellen was not able.

Aug. 18: Tom & Jennie, Mr. Goode, Ellen & Mr. Goode's little boy Frank called at the gate. They will stay with Tom Percy till tomorrow eve then take the Quitman for home.

Aug. 20: Laura came from Dr. Wade's at 6 oc., this eve., Blount had fever today. Mattie has been sick. Laura went by Wilson Wade's, went in company with his daughter to the picnic. Came back & went to Judge Wade's to a party.

Aug. 21: Jack sent for Mr. Darden at 3 oc., this morning to see Ma, she was taken very sudden, paralyzed on her right side. Her tongue was affected so much could not understand what she said. I went down after breakfast, Ma can talk much better.

Aug. 22: Mr. Darden went to Fayette got his life insurance policy for \$10,000. It is payable to me. I went to see Ma. I see a great change in her; she looks so reduced. Mr. Darden sent for Dr. Tate to see her. He says she may linger some time & she may go off sudden. Mat Skinner came with Dr. Tate. Jennie & Tom Percy went to see Ma this eve. Jack sent to Mr. Darden after dark to night. Ma was worse. Eli went there to go for Mary Scott & Sister Betsy Sibley.

Aug. 23: Mr. Darden came home to breakfast. Ma was better when he got there. Henry Darden went to Mt. Carmel for a preacher to pray with Ma. Ira Robertson & Mr. Redding came, stayed all night. Brother Sam & Jimmie Darden came to see her.

Aug. 24: Mr. Darden & I went to see Ma; Mary Scott & Jesse came to Dr. Tate's last night; Olivia came with them to Jack's. Mary Scott left Tom sick with fever. Brother Buckner, Lou, Cate & Buckner came to see Ma; also Coz Sarah Stowers. Mat Skinner came this eve., with Cate & Lou Darden. Brother Buckner stayed all night. Ma is better.

Aug. 25: Mr. Darden went to Jack's with Mat Skinner. Sister Betsy & Mr. Sibley got there this morning; came to Mr. Skinner's last night. Mr. Skinner & Dr. Tate came up with them. Came here to dinner. Lou, Cate, Laura, Jesse & Henry went to see Ma.

Aug. 27: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, put letter in office for Brother George telling him of Ma's illness. Dr. Richardson & Coz Mary went to see Ma. Willie, Drusy & Clarence Darden came to Jack's with Dr. R., they had not heard of Ma's illness till they got to Fayette. Coz. Margaret Darden had another paraletic stroke last night. Old Sol Stampley died at 8 oc. this morn; was taken last night.

Aug. 28: Mr. Darden went to Mrs. Jalone Stampley's. It was so late before the coffin got there, Mr. Darden did not go to the grave. There was a few Masons; none of his nieces there. Willie, Drusy & Clarence came this eve. Willie went home to let his Pa know his Ma was sick.

Aug. 29: Mr. Davenport eat dinner here; he came to look at Mrs. Stampley's piano. Cicero says he will not take less than \$350 cash for it. He wanted it for Him Johnson. Henry drove Drusy, Clarence & Jesse to a sociable at Coz Sarah Stowers, given to the boys & girls around Fayette. Capt. Harper's youngest daughter Eveline was buried Wed., evening; taken Sat. with fever, died Tuesday (25th). Mary Lou Harper Darden has been very low with fever. Brother George came at 9 oc tonight.

Aug. 30: Mr. Sibley & Brother George went to Jack's. Mr. Darden went with me when I got a horse. Mr. Sibley & Sister Betsy will go to Mr. Skinner's this eve., Brother George will go with them. Cate is confined to her bed with neuralgia in her head; shoulder & back.

Sept. 1: Brother George called on his way home; said Mr. Skinner is very unwell. Saw Olivia & Johnnie there.

Sept. 2: Sarah & Anna Darden called, stayed an hour; had been to see Ma. Jesse & Henry have not come back; they went to Capt. Sam Montgomery's yesterday.

Sept. 3: Henry, Jesse & Clarence came from Brother Buckner's this eve., left Drusy there.

Sept. 5: Tom & Jennie Percy, Clara & Austin Smith started home this morn. They had got nearly to Cicero's store when Austin's pony ran off, broke the lines, threw Austin down dragged him, then upset the carriage with Clara & Jennie in it; broke the carriage top & front all to pieces. Austin's shoulder was hurt. Clara's nose was hurt & Jennie's arm was bruised. Tom was behind in his buggy, but could not leave his horses to give any assistance. The ponies ran to the brick yard bottom; they were eating when Austin got to them. Mr. Darden got home at 4 oc.; sold his cotton for 25¢ a pound. It brought \$530.00.

Sept. 8: Cate Darden said she broke chill & fever on Henry by giving him toddy till he was drunk. Mollie Hornsby was very sick at Mat. Skinner's. They sent for her parents; thought she would die. She is better, Dr. Tate practicing on her.

Sept. 9: Tommie Scott started half past 4 oc., to Jeff Briscoe's; he is going to school. Laura received a letter from Mr. Paine, President of Silleman Institute; he wants her to teach music to beginners.

Sept. 11: Mr. Darden came to Dr. Tate's Thurs. eve., they were at Mr. Skinner's. He went there stayed all night. Frank Hornsby & family were there, their little daughter Mollie has been clear of fever several days. Jeffie Hornsby came home with Mr. Darden.

Sept. 13: Frank Hornsby & wife came from Mr. Skinner's to see Ma.

Sept. 14: Mr. Darden, Laura & George started to Fayette after 3 oc., rained on them when they got to Pros Whitney's; they went on to Fayette. Blount & Lena was there. When they got back the creek at Tom Darden's was up; they went to Tom's & stayed all night; found Sue & Mr. Armistead there, also Mrs. Fox. She had been waiting on Mr. Dick Truly. She has a daughter. (Eva Truly)

Sept. 15: Rev. Mr. Burges came at 12 oc. stayed to dinner.

Sept. 16: Mr. Darden went to see Dr. Bass & Amelia; they are at Jack's.

Sept. 19: Mary Scott read a letter she received from Jeff Briscoe. His health is bad; he has been to Cooper's Wells. Tommie Scott had come home. Jeff said it was impossible for him to send him to college. Jack came to Church today. Henry went to his Uncle Buckner's this eve. Mr. Darden went to Fayette, took our lamp to Armistead's to have a top put on it.

Sept. 20: Mr. Darden, Laura & Jesse & George went to the Meth. Church. I am 52 years old today. Tully Stuart was at Church; he has been sick. Blount sent the carriage to Rodney for Julia today.

Sept. 21: Mr. Darden went to Fayette to have Polly that belongs to us prosecuted for stealing our corn. Blount said Julia passed through Fayette this morning going home. Mr. Wade was with her. Mr. Bridewell from Port Gibson came at 5 oc. this eve.

Sept. 23: Mr. Darden went to see Mary Scott; she was so sick. He went on for Dr. Tate; did not get him, he & Johnnie had gone to Dr. Wright's. Lulie is very sick, been expected to die for several days. Mr. Bridewell here still.

Sept. 24: Jesse saw Mr. Bussor making Mrs. Lawrence Wade's coffin. She died suddenly yesterday at 12 oc. She will be missed so in her family & neighborhood.

Sept. 27: Lum took the carriage to Church for Laura; Ella Torrey came home with her. Julia will live at her Pa's till next year. Her health is better. Jesse had chill & fever. I had chill & fever lasted till late this eve. Laura received a letter from Rev. Mr. Rayne; he gives her the situation she wants & 200 as a salary, pays at the end of the session.

Sept. 28: There was an office came to Fayette to remove Bob McGinty from Clerk's office because he did not make Jenkins give bond for larger amount for shooting the negro. Leroy Key was to be put in his place.

Sept. 30: Laura packed her trunks to go in the morning to Clinton, La., to teach.

Oct. 1: Mr. Darden started with Laura at 6 oc., to Natchez; will go on the "Wild Wagoner" tonight to Port Hudson, then take the cars for Clinton, La. It makes me feel so sad to think my daughters are all gone & separated, so far from each other.

Oct. 2: Mr. Darden & Laura met Tom & Jennie Percy at Mr. Brandon's. They are going to visit Tip Montgomery. Will move from Natchez soon to Franklin County or Franklin Parish, La. Mr. Darden sold 5 bales at \$22 a hundred. Has \$2800 deposited at Britton & Koontz brokers. Ambrose Geoghegan paid him \$100 on the note he held against him - money he borrowed last year.

Oct. 3: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, court will adjourn this eve. Bob McGinty was reinstated to the Clerk's office. Leroy Key could not give bond. Laura received a letter from Jennie Torrey McGehee. The crops are fine in Bolivar. Mr. McGehee's not so good, lost his mules with charbone.

Oct. 4: Lucinda came this morning wanting to know what we were going to do about nursing Ma. She is not willing to stay longer. Mr. Darden went there to see about it. Mary Scott sent for Dovers powders; has been sick again. Mr. Darden stayed to dinner. Brother Sam was there, called as he went home this evening. Mary Scott says she is going home, she is not able to wait on Ma & all are sick at home.

Oct. 5: Will Robertson came & borrowed \$30 to buy clothing & provisions till he can have some cotton ginned. Mr. Baldrige was here, wants to gin his cotton. Mrs. Hendrickson has another son, week old. Ada Stampley was married last week.

Oct. 7: Mr. Hall sent for the buggy to go to Presbytery on Pine Ridge. He wrote that Dr. Richardson went to Dr. Wade's yesterday to see Carrie, threatened with conjection. She was great deal better. Lucy Whitney was married to Mr. Baldwin of Madison County. Rev. Mr. Booth performed the ceremony at the Meth. Church. Jesse came home with fever.

Oct. 8: Jesse came back from school, Mr. Whitney went to the Presbytery. Jesse had fever this eve. Anna Darden called this morn says Mary Scott went home with Mr. Sibley Wed. Dr. Sam Hornsby & Mr. Sibley came to see Ma, Tues., & Mr. Sibley came for Mary Wednesday. Ma must have been distressed to see her leave. She will be by herself so much of the time.

Oct. 9: Bob Campbell, lost a little daughter Mon. night with conjection of the barin. Was his second daughter by his last wife.

Oct. 10: Mr. Montgomery (P.K.) does not sympathize with Mr. Hewett & McElwaine; they have been sent to the penitentiary at hard labor for one year. He says they voted for Military Government - he did not - know ungenerous to make such a speech. He says he is a Grant man. Who would have thought a man like Mr. Montgomery would favor the Republican Party? Jesse had fever again this eve.

Oct. 12: Dr. Wade went into bankruptcy today. Tom Reed agrees to carry it through for \$50 and wait for part of it.

Oct. 13: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, got two letters from Laura. She is pleased with her situation. Will have a class in the sophomore.

Oct. 15: Tip Montgomery & Tom Percy went to Beuff River Tuesday; they think of moving there. Mr. Darden; him & Jack must make some arrangements about Ma's cooking. She would not have it done any longer.

Oct. 25: We all went to Church. Mr. Harrison has just returned from N. Orleans; Lizzie got Mrs. Stamps school. She is a daughter of Gov. Humphrey's. Ely Jones & Miss Mary West were married last Thursday. Jennie says they will move to Franklin Parish in a few weeks.

Oct. 26: Mary Lou Darden has a babe. It was seven months. They are both doing well. Blount Stuart's, Julia Wade is looking badly. She has the dispepsia so bad. She will be confined about 25th November. Mrs. Dr. Smith & Mrs. Judge Shackelford & Pauline Chamberlain spent the day with Julia yesterday.

Oct. 28: Jesse went home with Merrick Whitney to Tom Darden's.

Oct. 29: Mr. Dan G. Gule's carriage stayed here tonight going to Pine Ridge after Miss Sallie Moore to teach for him.

Nov. 2: Brown Stewart called on his way to Natchez. He is going to move back to his place Brother Buckner gave him. Mr. Darden went to Fayette to sign as Commissioner of the estate of James Stowers.

Nov. 4: Lewis Stowers came here on our wagon at 1 oc., this morning. He had been to Kentucky; did not succeed in getting business; came home.

Nov. 7: Julia Wade sent for me after 8 oc. I started before 9 oc. Her babe was just born when I got there after 11 oc.

Nov. 8: Julia is well as could be. Named her babe Anne Stuart for her Ma. Blount Stuart has chronic diarrhea, looks very bad.

Nov. 9: Mary Dixon died at John Fleming's; been sick 60 days. Mr. Darden went to her funeral.

Nov. 10: Julia seems to be doing well. I gave her babe dose oil this morning.

Nov. 12: Mrs. Dixon was here, had Sallie's little boy & Rosa with her. Sallie is teaching in Franklin County.

Nov. 13: There was a one-armed negro man came here said he found Brother Buckner's gold watch on the road to Natchez, thought he lived here. Mr. Darden went to Fayette, received a letter from Mr. West telling me Irene had a little girl. He had taken her

to his brother Dick's Sat. morn., Oct. 31st, so he could attend a political meeting in Bayou Sara. At 4 oc in the evening she was taken in labor; they sent for Dr. she was safely delivered after a short & comparatively light suffering. She has suffered scarcely any since the birth of the child. Rena says she is well enough to write to you if the Dr. would permit. The Dr. thinks the babe is a little premature but is doing very well. Tell George she will call it Laura. It is a month sooner than she expected to be confined.

Nov. 20: George is ten years old today. Judge Shackelford received a dispatch from Tom Jenkins saying he would leave for Jackson, Thurs. 18, sentenced to the penitentiary for 3 years.

Nov. 26: I started to Dr. Wade's before 1 oc., found Martha in labor when I got there. She was very sick; her babe was born at 7 oc tonight.

Nov. 27: Mr. Skinner is going on the Perkins place next year. Fleming & Baldwin will rent the place. F. & B. have made \$70,000 this year on their place below Natchez.

Nov. 28: Merrick Whitney came home with Jesse they are hunting today.

Nov. 29: Mr. Darden, George & I went to Natchez, started half past 9 oc., got to Natchez at 2 oc., went to see Jennie Percy; stayed half hour. Tom had crossed the day before, moving his things to Beuff River. Jennie stayed at the Duncan Williams at night. She expects to move next Sat. The Duncan place is beautiful, the water oaks are so large, fine iron seats under the trees. We went to the wharf boat, took supper there. The Wagoner had changed her time, did not come. The Margerita came at 10 oc.; I went on her to Bayou Sara. We got there about 9 oc., Monday morn. The clerk left me on the wharf there till I got a hack; paid \$6 for going to Mr. Tom West in St. Francisville. He was taking Nonie Cage to Bayou Sara to take a boat for N. Orleans. She went on the Hodge. I got to Capt. West's before dinner, all ran out to meet me. Irene has to feed it, does not give milk enough.

Dec. 1: We all went to Irene's in Capt. West's carriage, Tommie's mules & driver. It is a pretty place but very much out of repair. Jimmie Stewart called after we got home. Mr. John Connell was married last Thurs. to Miss Tress Carney. Miss Lizzie Connell (Mrs. Rainer) left for home yesterday. She came to her brother's wedding. Came to Capt. West's to see Irene.

Dec. 5: Mr. West borrowed Capt. Connell's carriage, sent to Clinton, La., for Laura. She got to Irene's before sundown. We were all glad to see her. She is still pleased at Clinton.

Dec. 10: I left Irene crying; it made me sad to leave her; we may never meet again. We left before day. Mr. West came with me to Bayou Sara. He went on the Belle Lee to N. Orleans. We were at the Henrietta House waiting for breakfast when the Wagoner

came. We had a muddy walk to the boat. Mr. West put me under the charge of the Capt. We met the Belle Lee at New Texas landing. There was a boat there with a diving bell getting cotton off the wreck of the Quitman. We could see the broken part of the Quitman. There was a few passengers on the boat; only seven ladies. We had a pleasant trip till we got about Fort Adams. One of the wheels broke to pieces - we had to come on one wheel from there to Natchez.

Dec. 13: Mr. Darden & George went to Church. Mr. Hall preached a good sermon. Mrs. Joe Davenport died suddenly this morning; came from her brother's, Jim Johnson's Fri. Her health has been poor for some time. She left six children, the oldest only 16 years old. Mr. Darden & I went to Mr. Davenport's this eve. They are so distressed.

Dec. 14: Mr. Darden, George & I went to Mrs. Davenport's burying. She was buried in Fayette by her little daughter Belle. Rev. Mr. Glenn read the burial service. Millie & Sue cried aloud.

Dec. 16: Mr. Darden received a letter from Mary Scott. They are living near Kingston, Adams County.

Dec. 17: Heard Ellen (M) Goode had a daughter. Miss Ragena Montgomery died yesterday in Fayette. She had been paralyzed since last October. Henry Darden went to Monticello with Lou Darden to visit her sister Annette McMillan.

Dec. 30: Mr. Darden went to Fayette; Pros Whitney told him he thought his school would not go on; he would not get a house to teach in. Put Darden is going to rent the Cambelite Church. Sue Armistead is going to join the Cambelite Church. Mr. Armistead will quit the Presbyterian Church & join the Cambelites with her.

Dec. 31: Mr. Darden went to Jack's to see his Ma. She is able to walk some with help. Cate says she is so fretful & cries & worries so much. Miss Oglesby is not willing to stay longer. Wants to borrow a horse to ride to see her Pa tomorrow. Cicero Stampley's hands have all left him. Some have gone to Alex Compton's, some to old Mr. Compton's, & some to Willie Stampley's. Brother George Darden made 40 bales cotton & large crop corn. Miss Mattie Valentine is teaching there yet. They say she is to marry a man from Kentucky.