

Saturday Novem 5th 1864

Clear and sun shiny to day. Saw Mrs Barnes just out of Rome. She says that the Yanks are boxing up every thing preparitory to leaving, have taken up one of their pontoons. It will be several days before they get off yet.

Sunday 6th

Cloudy again Mr Hardin Miss Harvy and Mrs Withers came this far on their way to church. We tols them there was no preaching and they warmed a while and went back. Capt Jay called and warmed allso. He says that the enemy are moving down the railroad that is 3 corps have gone down and 2 have gone to Chatnoga.

Monday 7th

Still cloudy. I weve three yds to day. One Year this evening since Hodges brigade camped here and Brother George came here sick. (This is the man who asked her to marry him. It was the custom in those days to refer to the opposite sex as "Brother" and "Sister". How sad that she never heard from him again.) One year since I first saw him and six months and better since I last heard from him. I would like so much to hear from him now. Whether he ever got well or not and if he did where he is now and what he is doing.

Tuesday 8th

Got my web out to day I was so glad to get it out I was afraid the Yanks would come again before I could get it out. More rain quite warm.

Wednesday 9th

Looked for Yanks nearly all day. Heard that some passed through Robinsons gap. Cloudy and appearance of heavy rain.

Thursday Novem 10th

One month today since gen Hood's army crossed the river. We thought then that we were done with Yankies but Oh what times we have all passed through since that time. We are striped of nearly every thing I walked up to see Mrs Thompson this afternoon, found her alone, passed the time very pleasantly. While there saw two of our soldiers with four prisoners. Came home stoped a while at the molasses mill. Clear to day.

Friday 11th

Have been sewing some to day. see no one passing. Harriet went up to uncle Isacs this evening and coame back with the news that the Yanks had all left Rome and burned the place.

Saturday 12th

A bright sun shiny day. I drew a web through the sleigh this morning and then went up to the molasses mill staid til dinner time. Met Mr Comer on the and had a long talk with him. Jane

Lizzy and Eva McArver came and spent the afternoon have just left. Heard just now that the Yanks have all left Rome. They destroyed all the public buildings.

Sunday 13th

Nearly all of the negroes went up to Rome to day to see the places burned. Mr Mrs Mitchel and Mary came and spent the day. Mary and Em have gone home with them and Sis and I are left alone.

Monday 14th

Mary and Emma came home this evening late just after they got home two ladies called to stay all night from Galesville(Alabama) had walked all the way. They had started to Rome to see about their friends but when they got here they gave out going any farther. They told us about one of the wounded who staid here all night a month ago. He sent us word that he was coming to see us as soon as he got able.

Tuesday 15th

The ladies started back home this morning soon, Walking has become quite fashionable of late since the Yankies have taken all the horses. Mrs Abe Pelt and Mrs William Pelt came this morning and uncle Isac came just before dinner, staid an hour or two and he went on home. We walked up to the grave yard to see Mrs Brison buried but they had buried her and gone before we got there. We went on as far as James Alexanders to see him staid til late in the evening. He had been quite sick all day he can't see any at all now.

Wednesday 16th

Nothing of interest has transpired to day.

Thursday 17th

Started up to Mrs Thompsons this morning. Met her going to Mrs Knox's went along with her. Billy McArver took us on the way and told us that the robbers had killed Mrs Omburg of Rome. Called at Mr Alexanders staid til eleven oclock and returned home bringing Mat home with us. Came home Em and I made Mat a doll, and caried her home in the evening, got back home before dark.

Friday 18th

I have been sewing all day to day. One week to day since the Yanks left Rome have been so they we can breathe easy that long. I wish that a Yank may never travel this road again.

Saturday 19th

Cloudy this morning and raining this afternoon. Mr Reed and another soldier called this evening and sat a while. I made Jim a shirt to day. Cant heare any thing definite about our army. I saw Mr Anderson he said that he had been to Calhoun that there was no Yanks any where up there. They had burned all the towns on the railroad. Mr. Crawford has come to spend the night with us. Walked all the way from Rome.

Sunday 20th

Still raining could not go to church. Mr Crawford staid til evening. He says he will let us have two hogs and a cow. I am very thankful to get them. One year to day since dear George wrote his first letter to me, dear fellow I wish I could heare from him now.

Monday 21st

Raining again and a little snow this evening has turned very cold. Mr Spurlock and two soldiers ate breakfast with us.

Tuesday 22nd

It is very cold to day. Had some snow but it melted as fast as it fell.

Wednesday 23rd

Still cold heavy frost. Judge Fain and Mr Landers called in to warm this morning. Told me to the death of his wife says he is ruined. Mrs Pelt came to dinner, came after some oil for her husband. Uncle Isac and two soldiers called in this evening. Mr Rich was one of them. He is such a strong rebel.

Thursday 24th

Clear and some warmer. Uncle Isac called at the gate this morning and gave me a squirl that he had killed, then called in the afternoon and staid an hour or two.

Friday 25th

Em and I spent the day at Uncle Isacs. Met a good many there, met for the purposes of getting the damages done by army assessed. Ours was assessed at 2500.00. I think it is paper and time thrown away. We brought Jane home with us. Heard while there that the Yanks were at Vanwort, but do not believe it. Saw Lieut Dean and wife called at the gate.

Saturday 26th

Started bright and early over the river this morning to go and gather hickory nuts. Accompanied by Em Sis and Jane Mc from home. When we got to Mr Mitchels we were joined by Mr Mitchel his wife and children. We gathered about a pick each. Spent most of the day in the wood. Came back to Mr Mitchels and ate our dinner and supper all in one. We found Mr Wilson and Mr Whitehead there. We only staid a short time and returned home as tired and warn out set as any one would wish to see. (You can almost hear Aunt Nanny's southern accent here: pick for peck and warn for worn.) We walked in all about ten miles besides stooping to pick up the nuts which was very laborious.

Sunday 27th

Very sore from my walking yesterday. Messers Dual and Bolt called in this morning came down to get a cow we have had for her milk since last June. Maggie and Vick came down this evening staid a short time. Jane Mc went home, sis has gone with her. Mrs Mathershed called in to rest. Maggie and I have made arrangements to go to Mr Crawfords next Wednesday.

Monday 28th

I spent the afternoon with Aunt Ann, took supper with her, spent quite a pleasant evening. Heard this evening that the Yanks were back at Dalton and that they had burned Milageville allso that gen Hood was in possession of Nashville. Mrs Thompson called this morning on her way to Vann's. Sis came home with her in the evening. Grand Ma had an ague this morning was quite sick all day.

Tuesday 29th

Mrs Thompson spent the day with us Va and Adda came in the afternoon. Mrs Pelt was here to dinner came to look for her hogs. I warped a webb this evening. Mr Mitchel called at the gate. A part of Clantons command passed down this morning. They say the Yanks are fortifying at Dalton. I was in hopse thay were going to leave Ga. Maggie has come to spend the night with us, and to go to Mr Crawfords in the morning.

Wednesday 30th

We started this morning tolerably early. Maggie and I walked leaving Mose and Alf to come on with the wagon. We walked as far as Mr Comers and waited for the wagon. Mrs Comer gave us some apples to eat and to cary with us. We got in the wagon there and rode about four miles then we got out and walked three miles as far as Mr Maloneys, stoped there to get some water and to wait for the wagon to come up. Saw some soldiers there but did not talk to any of them. We got in there

and rode 8 miles then stoped to eat dinner and to feede our teams. We over took Mr Bouchelon beyond Mr Pelts. He has an ox team and got along very slow of course. We ate dinner at the foot of the mountain at Mr Hurndon's Spring Here Maggie and I left the wagons and walked to Mr Crawford's, got there just before night fall. The wagons traveled too slow for us. We found all well and appeared glad to see us. We walked in all about 11 miles today. (I have no idea where they went, but it must have been in a northerly direction as it is mountainous there.)

Thursday 1st of Dec

Mr Crawford gave Maggie one hog and gave me three and a young cow. I was very thankful for them but thought that he ought to have taken some thing for them. We loaded up our hogs and Mr Bouchelon his corn and started home about nine oclock. The cow was very hard to drive and we of course got along very slow. Mr Crawford came as far as the top of the mountain with us, he and two of hie boys. We got back to our spring to dinner. Eat dinner and rested a short time. Mrs Dixen gave me a rustler (who knows!) as we came along. As we ame on Maggie and I got into Mr B wagon and rode about three miles driving his oxen, then we got out, left the wagons and came on to Mr Malonies, got some water and rested til the wagons passed. We overtook them about a half mile from there. We then passed them and came on to Mr W Pelts, there we ate supper and waited for them to come up. By this time it was getting very late, nearly night, but we came on home, getting here about eight oclock, very tired and our feet blistered, one of mine bled some. We walked 15 miles to day.

Friday Dec 2nd 1864

Maggie went home this morning and sent her hog. A soldier stoped for dinner. I spun some this evening. I did not think I would be able after my walk yesterday.

Saturday 3rd

Rained some to day. Has been cloudy all day. I spun four cuts to day Nothing of interest has transpired.

Sunday 4th

Bright and clear to day and cold. A beautiful day for preaching. Mary and Em and sis went Uncle Isac and Mr Withers called in and went with them. Mr C walked again. Nearly all of his congregation walk. Those who have horses are afraid ti ride them for fear they will be stolen. A soldier called in to warn the morning. He told us thet he had heard that Sherman was captured. That is very good news if true.

Monday 5th

I finished spinning my flanel this evening. Mrs Pelt came and got those things that the Yanks left here. I sent Alf to help Thompson to kill his hog this afternoon. Mrs T sent me some.

Tuesday 6th

Capt Hargrove and Marlan called in this evening. They had made their escape from the Yankies two weeks since and are just now getting home. They bring very good news from Tenn, say that our troops are in possession of nearly all of the state.

that we are getting large numbers of reinforcements from Ky tenn and a great many Copperheads, deserters from the Northern army. I have been hard at work spooling a webb. Cloudy this evening some appearance of rain.

Wednesday 7th

I finished spooling and warped the webb 50 yds long and late in the evening finished weaving a webb of flanel that we had in the loom, warm and pleasant to day.

Thursday 8th

Mr Mitchel came and brought us a load of corn, got here just at dinner. He said that he had heard that gen Lee and given the Yanks another whiping in Va and that Sherman had lost nearly all of his army, that nothing but the penatentiary was burned at Milageville. Quite cold to day.

Friday 9th

Cold and rainy drew a webb through the reed cold as it was. Nothing of interest had transpired that I know of.

Saturday 10th

Still cloudy and raining a little. Made my flanel skirt this evening and prepared two under garments. A soldier called to warn after supper. He reports the Yanks at Dalton. He belongs to the 11th Texas. Quite cold.

Sabbath 11th

Very cold to day can scarcely keep warm by the fire. Uncle Isac called to day.

Monday Dec 12th/64

Very colde to day. Had to draw the webb through another reed that one was too narrow. My hands got very cold while taking it through. I wove a little in the evening just to tye up all loose threads and get it started for Dilsey to weave. I allso made Dicy a flanel skirt, but have not put the body to it yet.

Tuesday 13th

A very little warmer to day. I made the waist of Grand mas flanel skirt to day, and carded some wool. Mr Comer called in just before dark and staid til eight oclock. When just about to retire for the night Mr Jones called in to warm. He did not stay very long. He brought us a shoulder of meat and a side of ribs in the morning.

Wednesday 14th

Raining this morning continued prittie much all day. Mr Moore dined with us. He gave us all an apple. (Times must have been very hard for the gift of an apple to be worth mentioning.) Quite a treat this time of year. I sewed hard all day, making two pairs of drawers for myself.

Thursday 15th

A young man from Galesville spent the morning with us. He knew all of us but we did not know who he was. Mr Pelt brought home three pairs of shoes that he had made, and took home the leather to make six more pairs. Dr Stricklin called in this eveing, brought Em a letter from cousin Frank. (This was F.E. Carleton, I'm sure.) She can heare from him, but I can't heare from George. How I wish I could. No rain to day.

Friday Dec 16th

I have another little cousin born this morning. Aunt Adeline had a daughter. Had a little rain this morning. Mrs Thompson and Mr Stevenson were here to dinner. Had a back put in our chimney to day. Isac Pilgrim came for Hays wheat. A squad of soldiers halted at the gate one came in and sat a while. He said that the news was that Sherman had gone through to the coast to port royal.

Saturday 17th

Mrs Thompson came down and cut five coats for the negroes. Em and I helping her. We have all of them to make up next week which will keep us very busy. V and A came down in the evening and went on up to uncle Isacs.

Sunday 18th

I went to church to day for the first time since last May. Saw Mr Harvy just from Richmond. Gone into winter quarters there. Heard the report contradicted about Sherman getting through to S C. Mr Knox sent his compliments to us all the way from Va

Saw Mr Eastman one of our Ky scouts, but did not talk to him. Came home ate my dinner, read some and slept some. Just before night who should drive up but Judge Fain and Mr Duval, the latter only staid a few minutes. I was very much surprised at his coming to stay all night with us. Not long after he came a little boy called to stay all night. We took him in as he was a little boy. After supper the Judge asked me for a few minutes private conversation, but as he is so hard of hearing it was not so very private or that is my part of it was not. He led me out and asked me if I did not want to change my way of living and become his wife, not his third or fourth but actually his fifth wife. (This must have been quite a scene and I imagine the other girls must have been in fits of laughter!) I told him no that I had other engagements. He thanked me for being so candid with him and wished me a happy union, gave me his hand as a friend saying that he hoped ever to meet me as such.

Monday 19th

The Judge left soon after breakfast. When he bade me good by he wished every happiness to be mine. Cloudy and raining some. Uncle Isaac came down this evening to see how the Judge and I made it, he is satisfied with the result. (I bet he was. I'm sure he didn't want her to marry that old codger. I wonder how old he was and what happened to the other five wives.) Commenced making Alf's coat, but is so dark and crowded around the fire that I could not get much done.

Tuesday 20th

Dark and raining, very cold. Can't get much sewing done.

Wednesday 21st

Cold and cloudy some times a little snow. Mrs Robinson called in to warm, staid til after dinner, she went down to Mrs Deans finished alfs coat to day.

Thursday 22nd

Freezing cold to day. Can scarcely keep warm siting by the fire.

Friday 23rd

Still freezing, sewed on Jim's coat to day.

Saturday 24th

Mr Mitche came over this morning said for us to send down to the river and get some meat. I sent and got it. One year to day since Alfred Bale was killed.

Sunday Christmas Dec 25
1864

Cloudy and rain after dinner. Vic and Susie Smith came and spent the day with us. Quite a dull Christmas. Sis went home with Vic and Susie. Quite a difference between this and last Christmas, then we had something to live on, now the Yanks have taken everything, but if they will only stay away we can live yet.

Monday 26th

Cold and raining. Very dull.

Tuesday 27th

The same as yesterday. Mr and Mrs Echols slept in the house last night, left this morning before we got up and went down to the camps, lost a sow supposed to be stolen by soldiers.

Wednesday 28th

Cold and cloudy. Messers Drew and Smith dined with us. Heard that Savanah is in the possession of Sherman. The news is considered reliable.

Thursday 29th

Very cold. Dull and gloomy, bad news from the army, and nothing to enliven us up.

Friday 30th

Mr Eastman and Mary Jane Smith came this morning. Mr Hardaman and Mrs Rush called in while we were at dinner to hire Green. Mr Thom Logan called in after dinner to warm. It is very cold and cloudy. Mary Smith is going to spend the night with us. Dr Sewell and Mr Agnew gave me some rice for some cold bread. They had whiskey to sell, several soldiers came along and stoped to get some.

Saturday 31st

A boy called in about ten oclock and staid til late in the evening. His name is George Oneal. I do not know what is the matter

with him, he talks and acts like a child about 4 or 5 years old. He says he is 19? Mary went home this evening.

Sabbath morning Jan 1st
1865

Another new year has dawned upon us. May it be a more successful on to us than the one that has just gone out. I pray that we may be more successful in our political affairs, that this year may wind up this crule war in our favor Oh Lord bless us both nationally and individually this holy sabbath morning. I went to day. Mr Crawford has come to spend the night with us.

Tuesday Jan 31st/65

I have neglected my journal for one month. It has been a month of cloudy and rainy weather with big waters and some very cold weather and a little sunshine. To day is a beautiful one. The state of affairs so far this year has been very discouraging. The army of Tenn has met with reverse and has fallen back. This has been a month of gloom -- gloomy weather gloomy times every way. Some of the people are fast becoming subjugated. For myself I have still some hope. I never want to go back in the union with no such a people as those vile Yanks. (Aunt Nanny instilled this hatred of the North in Granddaddy. He refused to ever visit us until 1947, the year before he died. When he met Daddy's family, he turned to my mother and said "Why Helen, these are nice people." He was always very nice to my father and like him immensely.) Lieut Dean dined with us. He is still in good spirits. He said that the army of Tenn was moving around to Augusta so he had heard, and that gen Dick Taylor was in command. He allso said that it was going the rounds of the papers that England, France and Spain had sent to Lincoln

saying that if war was not closed by the 4 of March next, that they would reckonise him as president of the confederate states no longer. That they would recognise the confederate states.

Wednesday Feb 1st

Nothing of interest has occurred to day. Cloudy and cold. Mary went to see Maggie Bale.

Thursday 2nd

Mr Mitchel called in this morning says there is considerable talk of peace. I pray how soon it may come, if it comes honorably. I sent for Mr Alexander to come and bleed our mules. They are both about to die, can't tell what is the matter with them. He took some blood, was afraid to take much they were so weak. I remodeled an old dress to day. Some rain this after noon. Mr. Hoskinson called in this evening.

Friday 3rd

A rainy day, very dark and gloomy.

Saturday 4th

I went with Green down to Mr Mat Vann's to day after some oats and he was not at home, found his wife and daughter there. I paid her \$91.00 for 13 bushels of oats. Sent green to Dr Carrs

Sunday 5th

Raining this morning. All went to church except I. My shoes was too bad to walk in and that is the only mode of traveling in this part of the confederacy at this time. Em got a letter from cousin Frank. Dr Stricklin gave her a newspaper at church, the first we have had since the Yanks left. Maggie Bale called at the gate on her way to take the boat to go to home. Mr Vann died this evening. Heard to day that Dennis was dead.

Monday 6th

Mr Stevenson called to day. I was going to Mr Vann's burial. Rained this evening.

Tuesday 7th

More rain. Billie Mc called in says that Mattie Simmons took up school yesterday.

Wednesday 8th

Cold and cloudy. Billie called in this morning with a note from Mattie wanting to borrow our watch. I sent it to her though it was all the time we had. The clock will not run.

Thursday 9th

Very coald to day. Mr Nichols called in to warm says he thinks peace will be made in a short time and it is the general opinion of the majority.

Friday 10th

A bright beautiful day rather coald. Mr Hoskinson dined with us. He will start home to morrow bade us goo by. Commenced knitting some for Hannah Knox.

Saturday 11

Finished my knitting this evening. Had the garden plowed trimmed some trees and the grapevines. Helped to give the mules some soñras (I can't read this word; so who knows what this is) Mr Each called in brought bad news says that the talk of peace is all nocked up. Lincoln would not receive our commishiners.

Sunday 12th

No preaching to day had to stay at home all day. Cousin John Cathey and Mr T J Drake came late in the evening. I was very glad to see them. I had not seen John in 2 1/2 years. He left his home Christmas day. All were well there.

Monday 13th

Spent the morning at home. Cousin John and I went to see Mrs Adams in the evening, found her quite sick but better than she had been. Lieut and Mrs Dean were at home. Had a very

pleasant ride there and back. I rode John's horse, the first horse back riding I have done since the Yanks took ours last June.

Tuesday 14th

A cold rainy day with some sleet. The rain freezes on the ground and causes it to be very slick. Had to stay all day in doors but time passed off very pleasantly. Mr Drake is very lively. I like him very much.

Wednesday 15th

Nothing of interest to day that I know of.

Thursday 16th

A bright beautiful day. Cousin Frank came this morning. Mr Mitchel came with him. Had a lovely day to day. Cousin John and Drake left us this evening to go to Summerville said they would be gone several days, went to go on a raid with Capt Gatewood. (Bad choice of something to do. I would like to think they didn't know what kind of bush wacker he was, but they probably did.) Cousin Frank has not been kwith us before in about ten months. He is the same Frank still, as lively as ever and just as great a tease.

Friday 17th

Another bright day. Mrs Pelt came and spent the day with us. I knit some on sis's glove. Do not get along very fast.

Saturday 18th

John and Mr Drake came home this morning. They saw the Capt but he was not going on a raid for several days and they came back. This has been an other day of pleasure. Cousin John and Mollie have gone to spend the night at Uncle Isacs.

Sunday 19th

Em and I had a big argument with Frank and Mr Drake this morning before breakfast about black and white being colors. They said they were and we agreed they were not. John and Mollie came home this morning. Mr Withers and Mattie Simmons started to church and came this far and found there was no preaching. They staid an hour or two and went back. Cousin Frank left us to go home this evening. We all walked down to the river after he left.

Monday 20th

Cousin John and Em went up to Mr Moor's to see if our shoes were done. While they were gone Mr Drake Mollie and I went afishing but the boat came along and disturbed the water so that we could not fish. (This was a paddle wheel boat of some size that went to Rome.) Did not get any shoes. Said he would have them done by Saturday. Mr Drake is not very well to day. Had considerable fever this morning. Mr Hartt has come to stay all night with us.

Tuesday 21st

Mr Mitchel came over this morning Cousin John Mr Drake Em and I went home with him and took dinner there. Mr Drake and

John were that far on their way back to their command. Mr D is quite unwell. Hardly able to ride. They left us in the evening. Em and I staid all night, played cards with Mr Mitchel till late in the night.

Wednesday 22nd

Cloudy and raining a little Came home this morning. Paid Mr Agnew \$300 for Mr Mitchel.

Thursday 23rd

Rained all day.

Friday 24th

Still raining. I suppose we will have a very high river. Henry Williamson and Mrs Chapmor were here to day. Mrs C came to rent our double houses. Let her have them.

Saturday 25th

The rain continues. The river is rising very fast. Will be very high.

Sunday 26th

Clear this morning. No preaching near to go to. Mrs. Bale and Maggie came this evening to stay all night.

Monday 27th

Mrs Bale and Maggie staid til after dinner. A soldier came just as they left, and wanted dinner. I got him a cold snack. Uncle Isac called in. I got him to take our cards home to fix them.

And that is the end of the diary. There were a few more entries, but Aunt Nanny erased them in order to use the little book for keeping accounts of the work Jonas did. The accounts go to October, 1865; so we know they were still in Floyd County then. What a sad, hard time for all of them. In her own way Aunt Nanny was a very brave woman ; she was quite young to be the head of a family of four girls and to run what must have been a large farm, not to mention managing the work and care of slaves. I wonder what happened to Jonas. He must have been a good man not to have abandoned them.