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Jan. 3: I received letter from Matilda Sillers, she writes like she was in great trouble, says she misses her dear husband more every day. She sent me my dear brother's photograph. She writes that Mary Miles' youngest daughter was dead. Laura & Irene called at Coz Margaret's; she is not well at all. Julia Newcomb was there.

Jan. 4: Killed 15 hogs, that is 39 hogs we have killed at home and 10 wild hogs in pasture, in all 48 hogs. Dr. Tate came at 12 oc. Olivia was coming but it was so cold she gave it out. Old Mr. Dick Harrison was killed Tuesday by his horse throwing him.

Jan. 5: Miss Abbie & her brother Sam came here after 10 oc., went back this eve. Irene went to the party at Mr. Hicks' went with Sue & Tom Darden. Laura could not go, -did not have time to get ready after Miss Abbie left. It will be a year tomorrow since Horace Bullen died.

Jan. 6: Irene got home from the party at Mr. Hicks half after 5 oc this morning; all the young ladies & gentlemen around Fayette were there. Miss Mag & Ella Torrey, Miss Mary Lou & Emma Haper, Miss Nannie Stuart, Capt. Bartlett, Capt. Steele Drake dined with us today. The Company did not get here till after 10 oc. I expected Julia, Lena & Tully Stuart also Clara, Jennie & Ellen Montgomery. They did not come. I had such a nice dinner; stack & two jellycakes, apples, oranges, figs, almonds, pecans, raisins, candy & kisses, strawberries, whipt cream, transparent pudding, cocoanut, cucumber & mustart pickles, turkey, two baked chickens, two chicken pies, ham, Irish & sweet potatoes, baked ribs bones, onions, sausages & rice. Capt. Wchwing & Mr. Jones stayed all night, also Ella Torrey went in carriage to the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Darden says the negor troops are moved from Fayette. Mr. Montgomery says all his negores stayed. He gives them a sixth of the corn & a fifth of the cotton crop; his have all signed the agreement. Blount Stuart called, eat dinner. Had been to Natchez, received notice that they held his note for \$3,700 with mortgage on his place, that he must settle it. Bob came again tonight, said he was going to live with Ambrose Geoghegan.

Jan. 8: Laura went to the Academy to teach. Irene went back to school. Mr. Darden went to Dr. Wade's, all well. Dr. Wade had gone to Rodney. All Dr. Wade's hands stayed for part the crop. Miss Little's girl Lizzie left; she is at Mr. Ross'. Mr. Darden rode out of town with Mag Torrey; she said Ella would leave for New Orleans tomorrow to go to school. Mr. Torrey will move his family to Sunflower Co. Jeff Montgomery's wife & children left Mr. Montgomery's last Wed. for her home on Beuff River. All of Capt. Sam Montgomery's negroes left. Only two of Gabe Fowler's

stayed. Jack went to Franklin Co. to hire hands; Henry went to Washington Co. to hire.

Jan. 9: Rosa Stewart was at Mrs. Kinnison's: Mary Jane Chamberlain lives with Mrs. K Sam Chamberlain has only been able to hire four negroes. Jack will have ten hands.

Jan. 10: Dr. Wade sent for me after ten oc. Wrote that Martha was in labor; had been sick all night. I got to Dr. Wade's after 2 oc. Martha's babe was born after 8 oc. It is a daughter; named it Mattie Dunbar after Mattie Wade (that was). Dr. Wade hired Jordan & Fannie from Dr. Walter Wade's estate. Mattie & Dunbar Wade have been there more than a week. Mattie's brother James is staying there.

Jan. 11: Mr. Cozzins & Judge Wade eat dinner at Dr. Wade's.

Jan. 15: Mr. Darden called at Jack's, Cate told him Ned Miller was murdered by a man he had gone in partnership with. They had a fist fight, Ned whipped him. The man got his gun and shot Ned Miller. Mrs. Miller had a baby the day he was shot. Miss Fannie Carpenter of Natchez was burned by her clothes catching on fire, that she only lived 2 nights and a day. Mr. Darden went to Jack's to witness the contract between him & the freed-men he hired.

Jan. 17: Cicero Stampley and Alex Compton started to N. O. today. Cicero is building a store on the road where his gate goes to his house; he is going to buy goods in New Orleans. I am sorry he has started the store.

Jan. 20: Irene writes that Mr. Herman and Miss Stevens of Fayette are married. There was a party at Sol Stampley's last night. Mr. James Harrington died last week. His wife died 10 Nov. He has been afflicted a number of years. He was an old friend of mother & father.

Jan. 22: Dr. Tate came after his horses; Olivia writes she will go to New Orleans next week; she will leave Johnny with me until she came back from New Orleans; she is going there to see if she can be cured. She has not been well since the birth of her first child.

Jan. 27: Mr. Darden went to Presbyterian Church in Fayette today. Ellen Montgomery joined the Presbyterian Church today. Mr. Darden went to Jack's they told him there that Jack Burch had sent Mrs. Dixon some money. Leila Burch is married; Eugenia is boarding in Carrolton. Jack Burch has broken up housekeeping & is speculating in cotton. (Daughters of John David Burch and Zenebia Stampley)

Jan. 28: Jesse & his Pa went to the Presbyterian Church. Mr. David Harrison & wife joined the Church; it was unexpected to most of persons. I pray they may be good Christians. Mr. Darden went to Dr. Wade's, Martha is sitting up; Mattie & Dunbar Wade are still there. Sallie has come there, too. James Taylor is there also. Martha has a time of it, two babies & company all the time. I do pity her. Anna Darden called here,

she had been to Jack's; Cortez Chambliss insisted on her going there with him from Fayette; his mind is very much disturbed on account of the state of affairs; he has no one but his cook. Can't get hands, is in debt, has very little cotton. He says he can't stand much more, he will go distracted. Anna says he is the picture of despair. Cicero had his store open all day yesterday crowded with negroes. Mr. Darden got a letter from Mr. Spiers living in Carroll Parish, inquiring about the business between him and James Rundell. He says he finds that record in Court unchanged, that he had sent to Texas for the papers but had not received them. He had paid the taxes on the Rundell land. The taxes were \$\_\_\_\_. He said he would have paid Buckner's but did not have the money. He wrote that unless the taxes were paid by 22 Jan. the land would be sold. Poor Buckner, everything he had was mortgaged to Henry Shepart of New Orleans. How sad it makes me feel when I think of him & his home in Madison Parish, all a desolation now. So much hard work & sleepless nights spent for naught for our enemies to ravage & destroy. Oh! this cruel, cruel war, what ruin it has brought upon us! My dear child is happy, I hope there is no trouble or trials for him to endure.

Jan. 30: Miss Sallie Grafton and Capt. McClusky were married Thurs.

Jan. 31: Jack sent for Mr. Darden to go & see Cortez Chambliss; he is in great trouble, thinks his family will starve; is worse since he came back from Natchez. Mr. Darden says he cries when he talks about his family.

Feb. 1: Mr. Montgomery called half hour; went to Jack's to see Ma. His son Frank was there too. Mary Bondurant moved back to her home on the river in Louisiana. Frank's wife (Teresa Kinnison) is at her father's, Mr. Kinnison's; says she will go home, but the swamp is so bad she can't get home now. Tip Montgomery is going to live on the Bueff River in Franklin Parish where Frank lives. Jeff Montgomery's widow lives there too. Jack went to Judge Whitney's gate with Cortez Chambliss; says he went off crying. Cicero came over this evening, said he heard Mr. Darden was talking about his having whiskey & selling to the negroes. He gave him his word he would not sell it to them without an order from Mr. Darden.

Feb. 3: Wat Burch was at Cicero's store this evening, told Maryanne his wife died two weeks ago.

Feb. 8: Joe Davenport eat dinner here; he is assessing this County. We are taxed for every hog, sheep, beef we kill for all the butter, eggs & chickens we sell and for everything else we sell. It will take all we make to pay taxes. Mrs. Davenport has another son born Tues; they have seven children, a large family & nothing left to support them on. Pros Whitney got home this morning, says he did not see Dr. Tate, but Dr. Guice saw him.

Feb. 10: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, he met Isaac Burch as he came home with a letter from Olivia, she writes that Dr. Richardson had performed the operation on her; he was afraid that he would not be successful the first time but that she must be patient, had never known a case incurable. Olivia took chloroform, was under the influence two hours. It made her very sick at her stomach. She had been lying on her back from Wed. till Tues. when she wrote. Dr. Richardson received a dispatch that his wife & three children were lost on the boat Carter, not far above Vicksburg. It was a heavy blow to him, rendered him incapable of attending to Olivia. She writes she is so lonely & wants to see her precious babe so much. Mr. Darden took Johnnie (T) & George to Cicero's store.

Feb. 11: We heard this evening that Bro. Buckner's wagon driver had tried to cross the creek at Folkes Ford & was drowned. Mr. Darden & the negro men went down but saw nothing of the wagon, saw where some wagon had gone on. Came by Steph Stampley's, a negro woman told him that Mr. Stewart came there, said the wagon was loaded with furniture & supplies for him.

Feb. 13: Coz. Sarah Stowers called at the gate, had been to Mrs. Dixon's. Olivia got home from New Orleans today. Wrote for me to carry her baby home; she is not benefited any by the trip.

Feb. 14: I started to Dr. Tate's, it rained hard before I got to Elie Compton's; I stopped there an hour & went on; the roads are very bad. It turned cold before I got to Dr. Tate's. Johnnie did not know his Ma at first, but soon found her out. Olivia was delighted to see him. Dr. Tate says he never wants to see anyone suffer as Olivia did when the operation was performed on her. Poor child has suffered so much & has not been benefited any at all. The Dr. thinks she will go back the middle of March and let them try again. Mr. Darden came back from Dr. Tate's, Mr. Wright & family have gone to Copiah Co. I started from Dr. Tate's at 11 oc., had a very cold ride home; George got so cold he cried; I got home at 2 oc.

Feb. 16: Ben drove the carriage for Laura & Irene this evening. Miss Maggie Torrey was to come home with them, but she will go to Bolivar Pond. with Sarah Darden & could not come.

Feb. 17: Ben drove the carriage to Fayette for Mrs. Byrne & Mrs. Seymour; Mrs. Montgomery, and Clara came in the carriage with Mrs. Byrne, Dr. Richardson, Judge John Duncan & Capt. Schwing spent the day with us, Ben drove the carriage back to Fayette with Mrs. Byrne & Clara. Mr. Montgomery (Prosper King Montgomery) took Mrs. Seymour back in his buggy. He seems to be very much pleased with Mrs. S. It is strange to see how lively persons get after they lose their companions. Capt. Schwing stayed all night.

Feb. 19: Mr. Darden went to Fayette gave Dougal McCormick money \$25 to carry to Jackson to pay his land tax. Sallie Wade is going to Kentucky to spend a short time. Pauline Chamberlain is going also. Mrs. Judge Shackelford has twins.

Feb. 20: Blount Stuart started to New Orleans with Julia; her health is bad generally.

Feb. 24: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, got the Natchez Courier. Mr. Montgomery was at the Academy this morning. Mrs. Seymour, Mrs. Hattie Kell & Laura spent the day at Mr. Montgomery's. It makes me think so much of poor Sister Maria when I hear of Mr. Montgomery paying Mrs. Seymour so much attention, how strange to think of it.

Feb. 26: Mr. Darden went to Fayette with Jack. Eisman left Mr. Hicks to settle with Jack about the cotton; he wants 15 bales. He said sometime ago he would take 10 bales. Eisman has moved to Natchez; will keep Victor Meyer store. The trustees met at the Academy; Mr. Tenney sent in his resignation as President of the Academy.

Feb. 26: Jack eat dinner here, Anna Darden got here at dark; she says Rev. Mr. Hall told her that Mrs. Seymour & Mr. Montgomery were engaged.

Feb. 27: Mr. Darden wrote to Fleming & Baldwin not to pay the draft to Hyman. Jalone Stampley came & borrowed a load of corn till the roads get better where he can haul from Natchez. Jalone (S) told me he heard the testimony in the case of Sam Owen. Jim Torrey told a little negro boy to take his bed clothes out of the house, Owen told him if he did, he would shoot him. Torrey took a chair was going to strike Owen when Owen fired & killed him. They are half brothers what an awful thing.

Feb. 28: Anna got here tonight at 8 oc, she was in a mud hole a good while in Middletown's field; her carriage turned over going to Natchez. Mr. Montgomery & Clara were in Natchez.

Mar. 1: Anna went on home; she gave Jesse & George books.

Mar. 3: Mr. Darden went to Fayette. Mr. Montgomery took Mrs. Seymour in the buggy to Judge Whitney's. Laura writes that Uncle Prosper gave Mrs. S. a diamond ring & beautiful photographic album; that Clara was having four dresses made in Natchez. Blount got back from New Orleans, he left Julia there enjoying herself. I suppose her health has improved.

Mar. 6: Mr. Darden went to Dr. Wade's; they have the measels in the yard. Martha is expecting the children to take them. Mattie & Dunbar Wade are there yet.

Mar. 9: Ben drove the buggy for Laura & Irene; Laura was ready to go to Mrs. Torrey's, did not come home. Irene came, she has been sick with headache. Mr. Montgomery is perfectly devoted to Mrs. Seymour, is at the Academy nearly every day. John Stowers is sitting to Miss Kirts. It is an example for the girls, the teachers having beaus so often. Julia Stuart has returned from New Orleans. Got her a set of China, gave \$150 for it. Buckner & Sarah Darden got home from Bolivar Tues. Mag Torrey stayed with Ginnie Torrey. Mr. Bridges is married; he was Ginnie's beau for long time. Ginnie & Mag Torrey had gone to Memphis.

Mar. 10: Irene went with her Pa to Jack's to see her Grandma.

Mar. 11: Mr. Darden, Jesse, George & I went to Church. Irene went back to school. Lewy Stowers called at the gate, Mrs. Hicks wanted me to save her 10 lbs butter for Court week.

Mar. 14: They sent us a ticket to Abram Guice's funeral.

Mar. 15: Mr. Darden went to Mr. Guice's funeral. He was working the road, went to the branch to get a drink of water, was paralyzed, fell in the water. There was a little boy with him got his head out of the water. He did not speak after he was struck. I expected Mrs. Harrison & Julia Stuart today; they did not come. The city hotel in Natchez was burnt Mon. night. I saw the light.

Mar. 18: Mr. Darden went to Ebenezer to Church, very few there; went to Bro. Sam's to dinner, Anna is quite unwell with some breaking out; her face is very much swelled. It is four years today since our son Buckner wrote to us from New Orleans that he had joined the Army. How sad to think of his dying so far away among strangers; everything he possessed is gone.

Mar. 25: We all went to the Presbyterian Church, Captain Harper had his two youngest children baptized. Miss Lu Percy was with Clara & Ginnie Montgomery. Ginnie & Ellen went to Natchez this week. Miss Percy came home with them. Sarah Darden was at Church, she says Rosa's babe was a boy, born last Tues. (20) She was very sick indeed, her babe had to be taken from her with instruments. Poor Rosa, I do hope she will not be like Olivia. Dr. Tate & Olivia started to New Orleans yesterday. She went to Natchez on horseback. Wallace brought her sweet babe to me to keep; she dreaded the trip so much.

Mar. 28: Brother Buckner came this evening.

Mar. 29: Mr. Darden went with Bro. Buckner to Natchez.

Mar. 30: Mr. Darden came back from Natchez. Bro. Buckner sold 23 bales cotton got \$31.50 a hundred. The river is falling. Capt. Richard Inge was buried in Natchez yesterday. It was the largest procession that was ever in Natchez. Rev. Dr. Stratton & Rev. Dr. Watkins both preached.

Mar. 31: Miss Annie Byrnes has come back to the Academy. Mrs. Seymour & Mr. Montgomery took a ride in the buggy to Mr. Harrison's yesterday. Oh! what young times for an old man to be riding with the widow. It is a week today since Olivia left for New Orleans. We have not heard from her; Johnnie is very good; no trouble at night.

Apr. 1: Mr. Darden went to the Communion meeting at Ebenezer. Anna Darden is sick yet. Rosa Stewart is better. Annette McMillan (Darden that was) has joined the Presbyterian Church. She writes that a great friend of hers Mrs. Otis died in child birth.

Apr. 3: Mr. Darden went to Fayette, was on jury. They got several judgments against Jack Burch. Judge Ellis got judgment against John Fleming for \$200. Young Mr. Rohelia ? (Rojhelia) was murdered by negroes last week.

Apr. 4: Mr. Montgomery sent us an invitation to his wedding. He will be married in the Presbyterian Church in Fayette. They will leave for Port Gibson as soon as the ceremony is over. Will come home Monday, and wishes us to dine with them on Tues. Judge Whitney's & Blount Stuart's & our family are the only families invited. He says he wishes as little parade & show as possible at his wedding. How sad it makes me feel when I think of the girls having a stepmother. Who can fill a mother's place, a name so dear? Bell Sillers & Emmett came to dinner. Bell brought me my dear Brother Joseph's photograph. Burch Campbell stayed here all night.

Apr. 5: We went to the Presbyterian Church to see Mr. Montgomery & Mrs. Seymour married. The girls from the Academy were there & good many gentlemen. Mr. Hall performed the ceremony. Clara & Ginnie both wept when the ceremony was performed. Miss Sue Percy was with the girls. Mr. Montgomery stayed at the Academy last night, could not cross the creek. They went home to dinner, did not go to Port Gibson on account of the rain. Mr. Montgomery & bride rode in the carriage with Clara & Ellen. Ginnie & Miss Percy went out in Mr. Tenney's Brett with Mrs. Seymour's little girls. There was all sorts of kissing at the wedding. Mollie O'Quinn died yesterday. Dr. Richardson tended on her.

Apr. 6: I got a letter from Olivia; she says that she was sick & Dr. Richardson would not attempt to operate on her. He had examined her, said she was not benefited the least by the first operation.

Apr. 9: Mr. Darden & I went to dine at Mr. Montgomery's. Rev. Mr. Hall & wife, Mr. & Mrs. Tenney & Laura Tenney, Judge Whitney, Pros, Miss Cate & Lucy Whitney; Dr. Richardson & Blount Stuart & Mrs. Byrne all were at the dining. Clara is keeping house. The young company will come tonight. It looked strange to see Mrs. Seymour there to fill poor sister Maria's place. Mr. Darden wrote to Olivia, took the letter to Fayette; received a letter from Dr. Tate; he was very much encouraged about Olivia. Dr. Richardson had performed the operation again; she was not suffering so much sick stomach as she did before. Sam Stampley & Alice Drungool was married last week. Her parents were so opposed to it.

Apr. 12: Mr. Darden wrote to Mr. Spires in Delhi, Louisiana; he has charge of Mr. Jim Rundell's business. Went to Fayette; put it in the office.

Apr. 15: Laura was to come home to meet Annette McMillan (Darden that was) here. Annette & her mother are coming to stay all night on their way to Natchez.

Apr. 16: Ginnie Montgomery called a short time to see her Grandma. She was going home with Miss Sue Percy. Old Mr. Nat Kinnison died this morning; he is 70 years old. (Age 73 yrs., 2 mos., 13 days. His wife, Lydia Stotts, b. in La. d. 22 March 1867/ Age 66 years, 5 mos., 7 days - Grand parents of Lillian Ester (Burke) Herring)

Apr. 19: Cate sent for my pans to bake a stack cake for Mary Fletcher Johnson's wedding. Blount & Julia Stuart, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. & Mrs. Montgomery, Clara, Ellen, & two Seymour girls, Jack Darden, Capt. Schwing, Mrs. Byrne & her daughter, Miss Annie. I had turkey, pig, beef, ham, oysters and squab. My first mess peas & etc., had an excellent dinner. Had for desert, cake, milk & peaches, grated cocoanut, transparent pudding, peach pie. There was a very hard rain just after Mr. Montgomery & family left. We had for supper Mr. & Mrs. Byrne, Julia & Tully Stuart, Ellen Montgomery, Capt. Schwing, Eli Jones, Mr. Silas Chamberlain, Mr. Drake, Jack & Henry Darden. They danced 3 or 4 set; stayed all night. The Miss Harper's, Sue & Tom Darden were expected. It rained so they could not come.

Apr. 24: Peter Alexander died at Lake Providence, Louisiana, last week with pneumonia. How Cousin Matilda Chambliss's family have been afflicted in the last four years. Cousin John died suddenly, Norman Frisby was murdered, Hiram Chambliss died in December from dissipation & now Mr. Alexander. They are left without a gentleman in the family to superintend. Dr. James Rown was buried Sun., died of neuralgia of the brain. He leaves three little orphans & one child by his last wife.

Apr. 24: Brother Sam Darden sent for load cotton seed; sent word Anna was not much better. Her face was swelled this morn. Jimmie Stowers & Miss Mary Fletcher Johnson were married tonight. Jack, Cate, Henry & Mr. Drake went to the wedding.

Apr. 28: Coz. S. Stowers called at the gate; had been to take Sallie Dixon home.

Apr. 29: Mr. Darden, George & I went to the Presbyterian Church, there was Communion meeting. Dr. E. C. Richardson, Mr. Armistead & Miss Margaret Boyd joined the Church. I sent little Johnnie to stay with Cate till I came back from Church. Jesse come back from Martha's. Blount Stuart spent the day there yesterday. Julia Stuart & Clara Montgomery went there to dinner from George Darden's. Miss Lizzie Whitney married the preacher David Snodgrass; she was getting old. Mr. Darden went to Fayette put letter in office for Olivia. He received a letter from her dated 26th April. She writes the place is nearly closed, will have to be cauterized when she gets more strength. She says she has no appetite; and we know she is not well. Dr. Tate would leave the next Sat.,; she regreted his leaving, but his business required his presence. Dr. Richardson would take good care of her; he had been like a father. I pray that Olivia may be restored to health again. It is so hard for her to suffer so much and to be separated from her precious little darling.

