

Transcript of Gertrude P. Johnson diary, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

[Inside Cover]

Gertrude P. Johnson  
Ingleside  
Jany., 1- 1881.

[page 1, side 1]

Mary Gertrude Parsons  
born at  
Bastrop, La.,  
on  
Friday, Jany., 19th, 1855.

Theodore Johnson  
born in Chicot Co.,  
Arkansas May 6th., 1852.

Sylvester Parsons Johnson  
born in Bastrop, La.  
Wednesday 2 O'clock P.M. Dec., 8th., 1875

Lycurgus Leonidas Johnson  
born in Bastrop La.,  
Tuesday, 7 O'clock A. M.  
Sept., 18th., 1877  
(Our children)

[page 1, side2]

Gertrude Parsons  
&  
Theo. Johnson  
were married on  
Wednesday, 11 O'clock  
A.M. Dec., 16th., 1874

1874. in  
Bastrop, La by  
Rev. Wm. Miller

Lydia Johnson.  
Pearl Johnson.

[page 2, side 1]

Saturday, Jany., 1st., 1881  
Most of the day  
was cold, cloudy  
& very disagreeable  
with a little snow,  
but about 3 O'clock  
P.M. the sun peeked  
forth from behind  
a bank of clouds  
for a little while.  
Sylvester & Theo  
went up on Callista to  
see Mrs. Johnson  
who was sick. Found  
her better. Bro. Ralph  
went down to the  
Ldg. & brought  
back two letters  
from Mama, one  
for the boys & one  
for me. Cousin Bob called.

[page 2, side2]

Sunday, Jan., 2nd. 1881  
It has been a bright  
beautiful day. Theo,  
the boys, bro. Ralph  
& myself walked  
over to the Lake,  
& went out about  
50 yds. on the ice.  
If we only had  
an ice house, we  
could now secure  
a great luxury for  
next Summer.  
Theo & I made some  
meringue, & with  
biscuits, cold tongue  
chure & pickled  
had a nice lunch.

Miss Eliza Watkins rode  
up horse- back &  
spent an hour.

[page 3, side 1]

Monday, Jan., 3 -'81  
All day cloudy &  
warmer with  
some rain last  
night. After Theo  
& I cleaned up  
the house, for  
we are out our  
house-servant  
now. I taught  
Sylvester his lesson,  
wrote two  
business letters &  
one to Berry, while  
Theo went out on  
the place, where  
he is having  
land cleared.  
Theo, bro. Ralph & I  
played several  
games of Casino before retiring.

[page 3, side 2]

Tuesday, Jan., 4th., 1881  
Still cold & cloudy.  
Not a ray of sun-  
light to brighten  
up Nature.  
Theo had the garden  
ploughed up,  
& is having his  
oat & clover field  
next to the garden  
broken up.  
I look through  
Sylvester's trunk  
& mend his

clothes, while Theo  
goes out on the  
place & arranges  
his squads.  
I like Napoleon  
around the house  
& yard, more than

[page 4, side 1]

any one I have  
had since Hattie.  
He was married  
to Mary the 16th.,  
of Nov., 1880 (Tuesday.)  
Dear, good old  
uncle Billy died  
Wednesday, 10 O'clock  
A.M. Nov., 24th., 1880.  
Wednesday, Jan., 5th., '81  
Theo, the boys, & I went  
up to Mrs. Johnson's  
this morning. She  
& Annie were getting  
ready to come down  
& spend the day  
with us, so we all  
came back. Still  
cold & cloudy.  
My throat is sore  
& I always feel uneasy when this.

[page 4, side2]

Thursday, Jan., 6 -81  
Very little variation  
in the weather—a  
trifle warmer,  
cloudy, with now  
& then a passing  
glimpse of sunlight.  
Theo & Sylvester  
rode around  
the place, but my

throat, being still  
sore, I remained  
in doors all day.  
Bro. Ralph is  
right blue  
about not getting  
off for N.M.  
All boats have  
ceased running  
above here on  
acct. of ice.

[page 5, side 1]

Friday, Jan., 7th., 1881.

We enjoyed a  
little more  
sunshine today.  
My throat is well.  
After writing to  
Mama, I taught  
Sylvester, then  
finished knitting  
bro. Ralph a pr.  
of wristlets.  
We played cards  
until 12 O'clock.  
Casino, solitaire,  
& Pedro being our  
favorite games.  
We have just  
finished our bbl.  
of oranges that  
Messr. Buckner sent  
as a xmas-present.

[page 5, side 2]

Saturday, Jan., 8th., 1881.

We were invited up  
to Mrs. Johnson's today  
to dine, as it  
was little Lute's  
first birthday.

The sun shone  
brightly all day.  
The latter part  
of the day was the  
most miserable  
of my life.

Sunday, Jan., 9 - 1881.  
Rain & sleet all  
day. Theo & I stay  
in our room &  
read most of  
the day.  
It is very cold.

[page 6, side1]

Monday, Jany., 10th., 1881.  
It snows nearly all  
day. Red Leaf,  
Eminence & SoSo were  
sold today. Mr. Ford  
was the purchaser.  
He gave \$26,000 for  
all the property.

Tuesday, Jan., 11th., -81.  
Sunshine all day.  
We drove up to  
Mrs. Johnson's & spent  
an hour or two very  
pleasantly. Returning  
home, we had  
lunch, then rode  
horse-back down to  
the Ldg., & by to see Mrs.  
Ford. She was dining

[page 6, side 2]

& would have  
us join her.  
The Commonwealth  
passed down today.

It is the first  
"Anchor Line" boat  
that has been  
down for several  
weeks. She will  
pass us again  
Friday, when  
Bro. Ralph expects  
to take passage  
on her for Memphis  
or Cario.

Wednesday, Jan., 12 -'81.

The day has been  
pleasant & bright.  
After teaching

[page 7, side 1]

Sylvester & attending  
to my other  
morning duties,  
I cut out a cotton  
gown for myself,  
which Husband  
& I intend to make  
as soon as possible.  
He sews on the  
machine (ours is  
Singer's) splendidly.

Thursday, Jan., 13th., 1881.

Mrs. Johnson, Linnie  
& Tot spent the day  
with us. At night  
it grows cloudy  
& so warm we sit  
on the front gallery.  
I feel sad, thinking

[page 7, side 2]

it may be the last  
night for so many  
years before we  
will have dear  
bro. Ralph with us  
again as he  
intends to start  
to New Mexico  
tomorrow.

Friday, Jan., 14th., 1881.

Bro. Ralph went  
down to the Ldg.  
after breakfast,  
but the boat  
did not come  
up until about  
12 O'clock.  
I can not tell how  
badly I hated to  
see him leave

[page 8, side 1]

& he seemed so  
reluctant about  
going himself.  
I think he enjoyed  
his visit to  
us. He was with  
us longer than  
any the rest of the  
family ever have  
been. I have  
strong hopes of  
his success for  
he is ambitious  
& persevering, then  
he will be with  
Berry, whose advice  
& teachings  
will be of great value.



At night, Theo

[page 8, side 2]

& I play several  
games of Euchre  
& Casino before  
retiring. We  
miss bro. Ralph  
greatly.  
I am becoming  
quite uneasy  
about Mama  
dear, she is normally  
so kind  
& prompt to  
write every  
week, & now  
it has been two  
weeks since we  
had a letter.  
I am hoping  
for one on the  
next mail boat.

[page 9, side 1]

Saturday, Jan., 15, 1881.  
I wrote to Mama  
& Sissie then  
commenced Theo a pr  
of wristlets.  
Weather- sun-  
shine & clouds.  
After dinner  
Theo & I drive  
up to the gin, to  
have some  
cotton marked.

Sunday Jan., 16th., '81.  
We spent the day  
quietly at home  
reading. I was

reading Pilgrim's  
Progress & newspapers.  
It has been so mild  
we have played outdoors most all day.

[page 9, side 2]

Monday, Jan., 17 -'81  
Cold & cloudy.  
After dinner  
we get aunt  
Maria to stay  
with the children  
& Theo & I drive up  
to Mrs. Johnson's  
& spend an 1/2 hour.  
I heard today  
cousin Linnie  
had another  
boy. Her 6th.

Tuesday, Jan., 18 --1881.  
It has rained, all  
day. Theo & I spent  
a very enjoyable  
day indoors with  
the children. I

[page 10, side 1]

mended all our  
clothes & had several  
delightful  
hours of reading.  
We received a  
large mail of  
reading matter,  
including "Floral  
Instructor", "Demorest's  
Magazine"  
"Free Press" & "Household",  
"New York  
Tribunal" "Morehouse  
Clarion"

“Home Journal”  
& several Catalogues.  
We intended  
to go down to see  
cousin Linnie  
today but the rain  
prevented.

[page 10, side 2]

Wednesday, Jan., 19 \_'81.  
I was 26 yrs. Old today!  
I wish I was philosopher  
enough to  
overcome my  
strong aversion  
to growing old. I feel  
so much younger  
than I really am,  
as young as when  
I was 16 – notwithstanding  
I am the  
proud mother of  
two splendid boys,  
still my years  
are too rapidly  
increasing, & I cannot  
bear the thought of  
being an old or  
even middle-aged

[page 11, side 1]

woman. The day  
Passed “\_” unhonored  
& unsung”  
unremembered  
in fact, but it was  
just as I desired,  
for since I have  
reached my 20's  
I want no celebration,  
not even  
any mention of

my birthday.  
Theo, though, does  
generously remember  
it & gives me  
a present. He gave  
me a beautiful  
copy of "Lucile"  
on our marriage  
anniversary, a

[page 11, side 2]

[at top of page] Rain, rain all day!

handsome wicker  
soaking chair  
for a xmas  
present & a great  
many books he  
got from New  
York for a New  
Year's gift so I  
was really glad  
to be forgotten today.  
My precious Mama  
I expect will write  
me a long letter  
today, knowing  
that will please  
me more than anything  
else. My own dear  
sainted Papa when he  
was here, never failed  
to remind me by some  
sweet token of his

[page 12, side 1]

love. Oh, my own  
darling Papa, how  
I miss you! More  
& more every day.  
If you could only  
come back & talk

to me a little while,  
I might then patiently  
wait until  
I can join you in  
your heavenly home.  
May next year  
find me a wiser,  
better & nobler  
woman. If I can  
only keep my angel  
Papa's example before  
me as a beacon & be  
guided by it, I will day by  
day be brought nearer  
to him & my God.

[page 12, side 2]

Jan., 20\_1881. Thursday.  
A cloudy, misty  
day. Theo rode down  
to the Ldg. but  
found no mail.  
I was hoping  
for at least a  
postal from dear  
bro. Ralph, as he  
promised to write  
from Memphis.  
I will feel so  
anxious until I  
hear he has  
reached Roswell.  
Aunt Julia called  
on her way down  
to cousin Linnie's.  
The baby is named  
"David Adams".

[page 13, side 1]

Friday, Jan., 21\_1881.  
The weather is still  
most disagreeable-

cold & cloudy. The children are growing restless & tired of their long confinement to the house. We grown up folk could appreciate a little sunshine for the same reason.

Theo went up to his mother's this morning & there heard of the death of his cousin Lucy Cable. She was the joy & pride of her aged parents, for whom I feel the deepest sympathy.

[page 13, side 2]

Saturday, Jan., 22\_1881.

After performing all my morning duties & writing to Bro. Rob, Theo & I drive up to Mrs. Johnson's. Spend an hour or two, find Mrs. J- in deep grief about Lucy Cable. There is some doubt about her being dead as Aunt Ann had a telegram the same date as Walt's letter, saying they still had some hope. My head has been aching terribly ever since I got home.

[page 14, side 1]

Sunday, Jan., 23\_ '81.

Have been in bed  
all day, suffering  
with my head,  
stomach & back.  
Cousin Bob called  
& said Mrs. Johnson  
had a telegram  
saying Cousin  
Lute was a great  
deal better. I was  
rejoiced to hear it.

Monday, Jan., 24- 1881.

I got up, though  
very weak. Theo took  
me out for a short  
drive, thinking the  
bright sunshine  
wd. benefit me. He & I  
together made me a gown.

[page 14, side 2]

Tuesday, Jan., 25th., 1881.

Theo had to go down  
to see Mr. Brooks  
about some lumber.  
I was sorry I felt  
too weak to go with  
him as far as  
cousin Linnie's.  
Mrs. Johnson sister  
May, Lydia & Tot  
came down about  
12 O'clock & spent  
the rest of the day.  
My head began  
to ache again  
about 4 O'clock.  
The weather has been beautiful

for several  
days.

[page 15, side 1]

Wednesday, Jan., 26th., 1881.

The weather is so  
fine Theo began  
gardening & set out  
some onions.

I feel almost  
well again, but  
my headache  
lasted till this  
morning.

Sylvester began learning  
to spell right  
well, & Theo is  
teaching Lycurgus  
his letters.

Thursday, Jan., 27\_1881.

Theo had to go out  
in the Cane to hunt  
some of our cows,

[page 15, side 2]

& the day being  
so bright & fine  
I took Sylvester &  
Lycurgus & walked  
up to see aunt  
Julia. Spent a  
pleasant hour or  
two. Met Joel who  
has just returned  
from the Unvsty. of  
Va. His health was  
bad & he has come  
to stay until March.  
Theo got back just  
as we did but did  
not find the cows.



He had Irish Potatoes  
planted today.  
After dinner, Theo & I  
[~~/strikethrough~~] drove [~~/strikethrough~~] rode horse-back  
down to the Ldg.

[page 16, side 1]

Friday, Jan., 28th., 1881.  
We were invited up  
to Mrs. Johnson's today to  
dine, it being Lycurgus  
Worthington's third birthday.  
Had an excellent  
dinner & pleasant time.  
The weather is cold &  
cloudy-like snow.  
At night Theo & I play  
cards until 10 O'clock.

Saturday, Jan., 29\_1881.  
Husband goes out hunting,  
but is unsuccessful.  
We have Napoleon  
clean out hen house  
& do some work in the  
flower garden. It has  
been bright, cold & windy  
today. Cards again at night.

[page 16, side 2]

Sunday, Jan., 30th., 1881.  
A sunshiny, pleasant  
day, except for the  
wind. Theo, the boys,  
& I spend a great part  
of the time out of doors,  
& enjoy ourselves  
very much.  
Theo got a new suit  
of clothes from N.O.  
but I do not admire  
them. They

are too "loud". I had  
a very discontented,  
unhappy letter  
from Sissie today.  
I am sorry she  
does not show an  
appreciation of her  
advantages. Mama can  
but ill afford to keep her there.

[page 17, side 1]

Monday, Jan., 31st., 1881.

I spend most of the  
day in making  
Napoleon prepare  
my border for seed.  
He has become  
worthless & today is  
his last day at the  
house. He says he  
wants to work in  
the crop. I fear he  
will not make Mary  
a good Husband.  
At night it rains  
very hard.  
Miss Eliza & Mary  
Ford called in a  
little while. I have  
felt so bad all day,  
at the thought of Theo  
going to N.O. next Sunday,  
I could not talk.

[page 17, side 2]

Tuesday, [~~/~~] Jan [~~/~~] Feb., 1st., 1881.

Theo went up to see  
Mr. Milton about  
furnishing his  
hands. I do hope  
he will get a  
satisfactory answer

from Mr. Buckner  
Sunday, & not  
have to go to N.O.  
I wrote to aunt  
Mat, Sissie, Dr.  
Marable & several  
business letters  
which consumed  
most of the fore-  
noon, with teaching  
Sylvester & cleaning  
the house.  
Old uncle Chas.

[page 18, side 1]

Barnes started  
to work this morning,  
in Napoleon's  
place, at \$6.00 per  
month.  
Feb came in blustering,  
cloudy cold  
& altogether wearing  
a very disagreeable  
face.  
Wednesday, Feb., 2\_'81.  
The weather is changing.  
Poor Mary is  
suffering terribly. I fear  
she will miscarry.  
Had a letter from  
Mama today. She  
wants me to write  
her & Papa's epitaph,  
but I feel that  
one far more

[page 18, side 2]

gifted than I should  
have the honor  
of dictating the  
words expressing

the nobility &  
grandeur of their  
lives. I object to  
Mama's getting  
a double monument,  
but she  
prefers it.  
Still no letter  
from Bro. Ralph.  
I feel so anxious  
to hear from  
Him.  
I am knitting  
Mama a pr of  
garden gloves.

[page 19, side 1]

Thursday, Feb., 3rd., 1881.

The weather continues  
fine. Theo started to  
plant oats, but found  
[~~it~~] the ground too wet.  
Old woman Millie  
could not relieve  
Mary, so they had to  
send for Dr. McGavock,  
who delivered her  
in a short time. She  
lost a boy. It was about  
2 1/2 mos. old. I examined  
it closely, it being the  
first I ever saw, & much  
to my surprise, found it  
perfectly formed & with  
every feature. I do not know  
what caused her to miscarry.  
In the afternoon I stayed  
out in the back yard while  
Theo helped to put up a Turkey roost.

[page 19, side 2]

Friday, Feb., 4th., 1881.

After I finish my  
morning duties,  
I write a long  
letter to Mama  
& send her three  
"Households" &  
Sissie 3 "Clarions".  
Theo & I then drive  
up to Mrs. Johnson's  
for a short visit,  
but she urges us  
so we remain  
to dinner. Had a  
pleasant time.  
When we return  
we find the  
children waiting  
dinner for us, so  
we have it brought  
in & join them.

[page 20, side 1]

Saturday, Feb., 6th., 1881.

It is very windy &  
cloudy, but nothing  
daunted, we have  
our horses saddled.  
Theo & I, & go down  
to see cousin Linnie.  
Find aunt Julia  
there, but Capt. Calhoun  
had gone to Vicksburg.  
Cousin Linnie  
was up & dressed, but  
had not left her room  
yet. Her baby is strong  
& healthy & as good  
looking as the majority  
of young babies.  
We had turkey & other

excellent dishes for dinner.  
Reached home before  
5 O'clock P.M.

[page 20, side 2]

Sunday, Feb., 6th., 1881.

The wind blew  
fearfully all last  
night, & all day  
it has rained.  
The "Col. Richardson"  
has not yet come up  
& I am still in suspense  
about Theo's  
going to New Orleans  
for his letter will  
be on her, & it depends  
upon their contents  
whether he goes or  
not. We both read  
a good deal during  
the day & retired  
early. So much  
rain ought to open  
the river. There has  
not been a boat from St. Louis  
since Cash Hall.

[page 21, side 1]

Monday, Feb., 7th., 1881.

Buckner & Co. refused  
to make any further  
advances, unless Theo  
wd. give his note for  
the bal. due them,  
endorsed by his mother.  
He had to leave this  
afternoon on "E.R." & I do  
hope he can make his arrangements  
with some  
other firm. It was a  
sad parting for us both,

but I was not willing  
to go when even he had  
to borrow \$30.00 from  
aunt Maria to go on.  
I had a single bedstead  
moved in my room & she  
sleeps in it. I do not care  
for any other protector  
while Theo is away.

[page 21, side 2]

Tuesday, Feb., 8th., 1881.

I had a letter from  
bro. Ralph today. He  
had left Las Vegas  
in a wagon for  
Roswell (his destination)  
& said they traveled  
so slowly, he thought  
it would take  
them 8 or 9 days to  
make the journey  
of 200 miles. I was  
so relieved to hear  
from him. Mrs. Johnson  
sent a fresh ham down  
& invited me to spend  
the time of Theo's  
absence with her.  
I prefer to stay at  
home & feel entirely  
safe with aunt

[page 22, side 1]

Maria in my room.  
I got my patterns  
from Demorest  
& cut out my waist.  
Want to make a  
calico suit before  
Theo returns.

Wednesday, Feb., 9th., 1881.

It rained very hard  
all ~~day~~ ~~night~~ & all  
day until 4 O'clock.  
Sister May, cousin  
Isaac, Linnie & Cave  
came down & stayed  
with me until bedtime.  
Linnie is  
spending the night.  
We sit up until  
after 12 O'clock.

[page 22, side 2]

Thursday, Feb., 10\_1881.  
It has been another  
rainy day, but  
Mrs. Johnson &  
Lydia came down  
& spent the day  
with Linnie &  
I. She went home  
in the rain, on  
Annie's acct.  
She is expecting  
to be confined  
very soon.  
I had to go to bed  
early as I was  
suffering with  
pain in my  
stomach & back.  
Linnie & Aunt  
Maria sing several  
hymns at night.

[page 23, side 1]

Friday, Feb., 11th., 1881.  
Rain most of the  
day with a few  
glimpses of sun-  
light like April  
Weather. Linnie



has been busily  
engaged crocheting  
Sister May  
some table mats. The  
latter will begin  
housekeeping this  
summer at Red Leaf.  
Every one thinks  
cousin Isaac owns  
an interest in the  
place, though Mr.  
Ford is the reputed  
possessor & only  
has cousin I—  
to manage for

[page 23, side 2]

him. I have been  
mending my two  
black dresses.  
Mrs. Johnson was  
to send for us to  
spend the day  
with her, but the  
rain prevented.  
I guess dear Theo  
is on his  
homeward way , & I  
anticipate his  
return with more  
pleasure than  
know how to  
express. Only two more  
nights & then he  
will be with us.  
Few persons ever  
hated a separation  
like we two.

[page 24, side 1]

Saturday, Feb., 12\_ '81.  
The day was cold

but clear & sunshiny.  
The ground  
has been frozen  
all day. We spent  
the day at Mrs.  
Johnson's & had  
a pleasant time.  
Linnie returned  
with us. I had the  
children at night  
then put up  
Linnie's & my hair to  
crimp & bang, after  
which we play  
cards until 11 O'clock.  
Linnie then retired &  
I read Courier Journal  
until 1 O-Tomorrow  
night, Husband will be with

[page 24, side 2]

Me-God willing.  
What joy it will be to  
have him back, &  
I hope we will never  
have to be separated  
again.

Sunday, Feb., 13th., 1881.  
The "Richardson" got  
up about 4 & it  
was only a few  
moments afterwards  
before Theo  
came riding up.  
The boys went into ecstasies to  
see their dear Papa  
& I was as delighted  
as they. He does not  
look well, but says  
he has not had a

[page 25, side 1]

good nights' rest  
since he left.  
Borrowed \$2000 from  
Buckner & Co. but  
had to give a mortgage  
on 200 acres.  
The boys are  
charmed with  
their presents. He  
bought me some  
of the handsomest  
gowns I ever saw.  
They are entirely  
handmade.  
Joel called in the  
evening & stayed  
until after 10 O'clock.  
I thank the, most  
gracious Father for  
allowing my dear Theo  
to reach home safely

[page 25, side 2]

& for his success  
in his business  
arrangements.

Monday, Feb., 14\_'81.

We walked up to  
Mrs. Johnson's  
with Linnie  
& spent the day.  
At night, Theo  
teaches me the  
new Pedro & we  
play for an  
hour or so.

The weather  
has been charming.

Tuesday Feb., 15\_

Theo went out  
on the place

then down to  
[page 26, side 1]

Mr. Ford's to look  
over his accts. &  
have a settlement.  
He owes Mr. Ford  
about \$1800.00,  
every cent of which  
I hope he will be  
able to pay him  
this year. I regret  
very much the  
unpleasant feelings  
existing between  
Mr. Ford & Theo, for  
I have no better  
friend, I believe  
than Mrs. Ford,  
certainly none  
whom I love more  
in Ark.  
We never knew  
what economy

[page 26, side 2]

was before, & I  
hope we will  
profit by its practice.  
If we make  
a good crop this  
year, I can see  
the light of freedom  
ahead. To be  
in debt is a  
horrible nightmare  
to me.  
Wednesday, Feb., 16\_'81  
If dear Papa had  
lived, this would  
have been his &  
Mama's 27th  
marriage anniversary.

My angel Papa  
how could I stand  
our separation if  
I did not feel

[page 27, side 1]

that we would  
meet & know each  
other up there! Oh  
the sweet consolation  
of my Christian  
faith. I would  
not be without  
it for all the world  
complains.  
Theo & I started  
up to Sunny  
Side, but at Mrs.  
Johnson's gate met  
her & Sister May  
coming down to  
spend the day. I turned  
back, but Theo  
had to go & see Mr.  
Milton on business.  
I was disappointed  
as I have not seen

[page 27, side 2]

Mrs. Milton for  
several months, the  
roads being so bad,  
but we came on  
horse & all had a  
pleasant day or  
seemed to have.  
Thursday, Feb., 17\_ 1881.  
Warm & cloudy, but  
does not rain.  
My horse, Callista  
has scratches so  
badly I can-not

ride her. Theo  
has Old man  
Chas bathe her  
legs in salt-water  
then rub coal oil on  
them. I commence  
reading "In the  
Schillings court"

[page 28, side 1]

a novel from the  
German, which  
Theo brought me  
from N.O. Our  
subscription to most  
of our papers has  
expired. I don't feel  
able to renew many  
of them, yet I shall  
miss them most  
sadly, still I have  
many excellent books  
that can occupy  
my time for many,  
many months.  
It is a great pleasure  
to teach Sylvester.  
He learns on readily.  
while Theo has been  
teaching our baby, Lycurgus  
his letters, every one  
of which he knows.

[page 28, side 2]

Friday, Feb., 18th., 1881.  
We got ready to go to  
Lake Village, but it  
looked like raining,  
& we postponed the  
trip. Joel spent the  
morning with us  
& when he left

Theo wanted to  
buy his new horse,  
so we drove  
up to Mrs. Johnson's  
& coming back  
got caught in the  
rain & were drenched.  
We like the horse (Sylvester  
Lycurgus, Theo calls him)  
he trots well & seems  
gentle.

[page 29, side 1]

Saturday, Feb., 19\_1881.  
We went to Lake Village  
today. Dined at Mrs.  
Reynold's & had a  
delightful time. Sister  
May, cousin Isaac, aunt  
Julia, & Joel were there.  
The sale of Maj. Robinson's  
property did not take  
place, owing to some  
ommission\_ I believe  
of appraisement.  
The road by Ditch  
Bayou was so bad  
I crossed the Lake  
& came as far as aunt  
Julia's with her in her  
carriage. Joel drove  
down with Theo & we  
all met at aunt J's & took  
supper. We left the  
boys with Mrs. Johnson.

[page 29, side 2]

Sunday, Feb., 20\_1881.  
Notwithstanding the  
cold & cloudy day  
yesterday, today  
is bright & pleasant.

I spend most  
of it in reading.  
Monday, Feb., 21\_1881.  
Today is Sissie's  
14 birth-day. She  
is at Ward's in  
Nashville- my old  
Alma Mater- & I  
hope is applying  
herself diligently  
to her studies.  
Theo & I drive up  
to Sunny Side. I  
call on Mrs. Milton  
& Miss Goode. Stop

[page 30, side 1]

by at Mrs. Johnson's  
& spend the rest of the  
day. Linnie returns  
with us & spends  
the night.  
Tuesday, Feb., 22nd., 1881.  
A most lovely day-  
the finest we have  
had this season.  
Theo & I drove up to  
Mrs. J's to take Linnie  
home. None of the young  
ladies whom they were  
expecting to attend the  
party & stay there came.  
They seemed very much  
disappointed that  
Miss Rebecca Williams  
(Cave's sweet-heart)  
did not come.  
The party is to be

[page 30, side 2]

given tonight at  
Lake Village by



the young men  
of the vicinity & they  
intend that it  
shall be an elegant  
affair. 400 invitations  
were issued.  
Cousin Bob called.  
Theo & I planted  
some radish &  
mustard seed  
in my border.

Wednesday, Feb., 23rd., '81.  
Linnie & Annie  
with Lydia & nurse  
walked down &  
spent the day.  
It was a long

[page 31, side 1]

[top of page- Had a p.c. from bro. Ralph today.  
He reached Roswell on the 5th-, Insp.

walk for Annie in  
her condition.  
Mrs. Johnson sent  
the carriage down  
for them in the  
evening & Theo, the  
children & myself  
drove up in our  
buggy & spent a few  
moments.

Thursday, Feb., 24th., -'81.  
Theo & I get off for  
Lake Village at  
7 O'clock. The  
morning is so bright &  
calm, we enjoy our  
drive & reach  
Mrs. Reynold's at  
10 O'clock. Have a de-

[page 31, side 2]

lightful visit there,  
then she, Mrs. Avant  
(her mother) & myself  
go & call on Mrs.  
Valentine. Theo finishes his  
business with- Mr.  
Valentine & we  
cross the Lake  
though the wind  
is high & the Lake  
is very rough.  
Joel crosses with  
us. On our way  
home, we call on  
Mrs. Katie Davies  
at Mrs. Hebron's,  
also on Mrs.  
Starling (the mother)  
who had just

[page 32, side 1]

returned from Ky.  
I enjoy her society  
very much. She  
is so learned &  
entertaining.  
We reach home  
just about dark,  
& receive a joyous  
greeting from our  
little boys, whom  
we left with  
aunt Maria.  
They enjoy the cake  
Mrs. Reynolds sent  
them. We eat our  
late dinner, then  
Theo reads several  
stories to the boys  
& at 9 O'clock we

all retire. I have taken  
a bad cold today.

[page 32, side 2]

Friday, Feb., 25th., 1881.

The weather  
continues charming.  
I accompany Theo  
around the place  
on horseback.  
Sylvester rides behind  
me & Lycurgus  
behind his Papa  
for the first time.  
We also ride up  
& pay Mrs. J- a visit.  
Get back home at  
11 O'clock. I feel so  
unwell with this  
cold & severe cough  
I lie down an hour  
or two. Mrs. Milton &  
Miss Goode call in the  
afternoon. The latter  
is Governess for

[page 33, side 1]

Mrs. Milton's 2 little  
girls. Mrs. M looked  
beautiful.  
After they leave  
Theo & I drive (to Mrs. J's)  
up & get some  
cutting of English  
Hawthorne.

Saturday, Feb., 26th., 1881.

Cloudy & warm, with  
a little rain at night  
we will all rejoice if  
it clears off without more  
rain. Walter got down  
from St. Louis last night

& he with Cave call in  
the afternoon. Theo & I drive up  
to Sunny Side, & stop to see  
aunt Julia on our way home.  
Sister May & Walter come  
down & sit with us until  
After 8 O'clock P.M.

[page 33, side 2]

Sunday, Feb., 27th., 1881.  
The forenoon was cold  
windy & cloudy, but  
about noon, it began  
to clear off & the sun  
shone most of the afternoon.  
We feel a little  
uneasy about our  
peach trees tonight.  
They are just  
beginning to bloom & we are  
very anxious for them to  
bear as it will be their  
1st year. We drove up to  
Aunt Julia's this morning.  
She has not 1/2 enough hands  
to work her place & Theo is  
willing for Harvey Williams  
(one of his hands) to go  
on Deer Creek & get her  
some as H\_ says he

[page 34, side 1]

Can get any no. from  
there. Aunt Julia says  
she feels in utter despair  
& she certainly looks very,  
very sad. Theo wanted  
to find out if old Harvey  
had been up to see  
her. He had & she had  
given him money to go  
on. We drove from

there up to Mrs. Johnson's  
& spent an hour.  
When we reached  
home, we partook  
of a nice lunch.  
I read the  
accumulated newspapers  
of a week, then play  
& sing several hymns  
while Theo lies on the  
sofa & listens. He has  
headache tonight.

[page 34, side 2]

Monday, Feb., 28th., 1881.  
Theo & I on horse-back  
with the children,  
went to the clearing,  
& saw some men set  
fire to the cane.  
It burnt well &  
was a grand &  
novel sight to me.  
The weather is bright  
& fine again.  
At night we amuse  
ourselves at cards.

March 1st., 1881. Tuesday.  
This day recalls the  
saddest of my life.  
One year ago, God took  
my precious Papa  
home to rest... How I  
shall miss him all

[page 35, side 1]

[top of page- Theo planted today, Pear, Lettuce,  
Radishes & Beets\_ also made a  
hot-bed & planted cabbage, tomatoes, etc.]

the days of my life, but

the sweet hope of being  
with him again, is  
mine, & that alone  
reconciles me to my  
loss.

Theo took Mr. Gatewood  
(Notary Public) up  
to Mrs. Johnson's after  
breakfast & got her to  
sign his Deed. There  
was one word omitted  
from the first one he got  
that rendered it invalid.  
Walter called in the  
evening, & Joel also stopped  
by to tell us good-bye.  
He is on his way back  
to school. They both  
stayed until 9 O'clock P.M.  
One of Sylvester's eyes is very  
sore. Had a letter from Mama.

[page 35, side 2]

Wednesday, M'ch., 2nd., 1881.

Theo went to the Village  
to have his Deed recorded  
& to attend to some  
other business. He returned  
at half-past two, I  
had no idea the trip  
could be made so quickly.

It is 15 miles up there.  
Sylvester's eyes are so  
sore I keep him in the  
house all day.

After dinner Theo & I  
drive up to Mrs. Johnson's.  
He tried to  
persuade me to go to  
the Village with him  
but I had no  
inclination to go. Wrote  
several business

Transcript of Gertrude P. Johnson diary, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

letters today.

[page 36, side 1]

Thursday, M'ch., 3rd., 1881.

The wind blows all day with such fury, it keeps one in the house most of the time. I put a few vegetable seed in my pit & metic basket, also some Camomile & Salvia seed. Sylvester's eyes are well. Mary cooked dinner while Aunt Maria went off to get us a turkey gobbler. The one aunt Julia gave us is too young to raise from. She got a splendid one but had to give \$2.00 for him. I had letters from Sissie & bro. Ralph. The latter seemed well pleased with his home in New Mexico.

[page 36, side 2]

Friday, March 4th. 1881.

Still windy, but clear & bright & very cold. Sylvester's eyes being well, I renew his lessons. Aunt Julia walked down & spent 2 or 3 hours. Capt. Calhoun also called. Theo & I drove up to Sunny Side & got 1/2 gal. white onion sets. I am going to have uncle Chas (our gardener) by to raise some fine ones. We had the boys a little garden made today & helped them to plant some onions.



Theo & I drove up to  
Mrs. Johnson's & got  
some more cuttings

[page 37, side 1]

of the hedge (English  
Hawthorne or Pyracanth.)  
I would have liked to have  
been in Washington, D.C.  
today to have witnessed  
the inaugural  
ceremonies of Jas. A.  
Garfield\_ President.  
Saturday, M'ch., 5th., 1881.  
Theo has been busy  
planting oats all day,  
but did not finish.  
I wrote to bro. Ralph &  
Sissie & helped uncle  
Chas to set out honey-  
suckles in the back  
yard around the cistern  
milk snow etc. Theo &  
I drove up to Mrs. Johnson's  
after sun-down &  
spend an half-hour

[page 37, side 2]

Sunday M'ch., 6th., 1881.  
Theo & I drove down  
to the Ldg. for our mail  
& I found a long &  
most interesting  
letter from dear  
Berry. Our "singings"  
of old have been  
renewed & we had  
a delightful meeting  
at Aunt Julia's  
to play. Took the children  
with us.  
Mr. Starling and Annie

drove down & took  
supper with us.  
There was a frost  
last night, which  
I fear will injure the  
fruit. The peach trees  
are in bloom.

[page 38, side 1]

Monday, M'ch., 7th., 1881.

It rained a gentle  
shower until about  
10 O'clock A.M. It was  
of great benefit, for  
the ground had  
become very hard  
& dry. We drove up  
to Mrs. Johnson's &  
got some Lettuce  
plants. I wrote to  
Mama & Mr. Rennie  
(a florist) for some  
pansy seed.

Tuesday, M'ch., 8th., 1881.

Bright & clear. Mrs. Johnson  
& Annie spent the  
day. Miss Eliza called. Theo, the  
Boys & I walked over to the Lake.  
Found the water on our land.

[page 38, side 2]

Wednesday, M'ch., 9th., 1881.

Theo & I drove up to Sunny  
Side & paid a nice little  
visit to Mrs. Milton.  
Stopped by & took dinner  
with Mrs. Johnson.  
In the evening we  
play cards until  
bedtime.

Thursday. M'ch., 10th., 1881.

I went to see aunt  
Julia & she made  
a selection of roses  
for me. I will write  
this morning to the  
"Innisfallen Greenhouses"  
for them. Had letters  
from Mama, bro. Rob &  
Ralph. Bro. Rob is clerking  
for uncle Robert.

[page 39, side 1]

Friday, M'ch., 11th., 1881.

Theo, the boys & I drove  
up to Sunny Side, after  
the bu. sweet potatoes  
Theo sent to Memphis  
for. Found them &  
stopped at Mrs. Johnson's  
& gave her  
half. Theo had  
his bedded as soon  
as he got home.  
Sent for some  
roses & seed today.  
I hear Annie Peak  
had a little girl.

[Margin note] Rained very hard.

Saturday, M'ch., 12th., 1881.

Theo finished planting  
oats. He & I drove up  
to Sunny Side. Met  
Miss Lolla Starling &

[page 39, side 2]

Miss Goode out fishing.  
Wrote a long  
letter to Mama, Berry  
& several business  
postals. Made  
white soup for  
dinner.

Sunday, M'ch., 13th., 1881.

The singing met  
at Mrs. Milton's. There  
was full attendance.  
It will meet  
at our house next  
Sunday. Cousin  
Kate, & Bob, Aunt  
Julia, & Mr. Holly came  
home with us & took  
dinner. Aunt Maria  
has gone to Eggs Point

[page 40, side 1]

to see Dr. Smith- Mary is  
working in her place  
& a slower human I  
never saw.

Monday, M'ch., 14th., 1881.

Mr. Gatewood came up  
to see Theo on business  
& stayed to dinner.  
After dinner we drove  
up to see Mrs. Johnson.  
Theo planted a row of little  
gem Peas. We have  
peas, lettuce, radishes,  
beets, mustard,  
turnips & onions up.  
Had a letter from  
darling Mama yesterday.  
She sent me some

winter cabbage seed,  
which I planted today.

[page 40, side 2]

Tuesday, March, 15th., 1881.

Today is bro. Rob's 19th,  
birthday. I write to  
him, also to bro.

Ralph & Hewit,  
Sharp & Co. for some  
Barb wire to make  
a lot fence & some  
cafe. Theo & I drove  
up to Mrs. Johnson's  
to take her some  
turnips to set out.

Our gardener plants  
okra, beans, cucumbers  
squashes, parsley &  
corn. He wanted to  
get them in on the  
light moon. Theo &  
I set out a row of  
Early York cabbage. We  
have 2 hens sitting.

[page 41, side 1]

Wednesday, M'ch., 16th., 1881.

It rained all last  
night & all day.

I spend most of  
the day reading,  
knitting on Theo's  
gloves & teaching  
Sylvester. Aunt Maria  
is making a long  
stay with Dr. Smith-  
(if that is where  
she went.)

Thursday, M'ch., 17th., 1881.

I finished Theo's gloves

& taught Sylvester.  
Still raining & there is  
so much water on the  
ground. Linnie came  
up with cousin  
Linnie this far, &

[page 41, side 2]

Took dinner with us.  
Theo & I then took  
her home & stayed  
about an half hour.  
Aunt Maria got  
back this morning  
& says she thinks  
she is benefitted,  
but will have to  
go ~~home~~ ~~back~~  
in 3 weeks.

Friday, M'ch., 18th., 1881.  
Another rainy day.  
We read a large mail  
of papers & one letter  
from bro. Ralph.  
Uncle Chas. is sick.  
I am becoming anxious  
to hear from Sissie.

[page 42, side 1]

Saturday, M'ch., 19th., 1881.  
The sun shone a  
good deal during the  
day & it is much  
colder. I had cake  
(pound & jelly) baked  
for lunch tomorrow,  
& also a guinea.

Sunday, March 20th., 1881.  
There was a very full  
attendance here at

the singing today, & every one seemed to enjoy it. Mrs. Johnson, Linnie, Walter & Lydia stayed to dinner. Mrs. J & aunt Julia met today for the first time in over a year & each spoke to the other.

[page 42, side 2]

I heard today, that Mr. Ford had leased the store at Sunny Side, & Mr. Milton will go in business at Louisville, Ky. Of course Mrs. Milton is delighted with the change, but I shall regret to lose her from our midst. She is one of the most superior women I ever know. Cave told Theo & I today, confidentially that he & Miss Annie Marshall were going to marry the 1st. of May. Comment is unnecessary, every one

[page 43, side 1]

will think he is doing it for spite, as he was so recently in love with Miss Williams & rejected by her. Miss Marshall was here today. She is visiting her

sister, Mrs. Hebron.

Monday, M'ch., 21st., 1881.

Aunt Julia & cousin  
Linnie spent the day,  
& I enjoyed their society  
very much. The day  
passed most pleasantly.  
It is very cold & we  
had a little rain.  
Mrs. Starling sent me  
some geraniums,  
violets & other plants

[page 43, side 2]

Which Theo & I put  
out this morning.  
It is so cold  
we have covered  
them tonight.

Tuesday, M'ch. 22nd., '81.

A bright & sunny day,  
though some what  
windy. Linnie, Walter  
& Tom Worthington  
spent the day.  
Uncle Chas. came  
out today & set out  
my bed of onions.  
I wrote to Mama &  
bro. Ralph today.

Wednesday, M'ch., 23—  
Theo and I drove up to

[page 44, side 1]

see Mrs. Milton, &  
took the children.  
I bought 13 roses  
from her at such  
a price & I expect



Theo will purchase  
her fruit trees. She  
wants to sell everything  
but her pictures  
& books, before  
she leaves.

Theo brought the children  
on home  
then returned to Mrs.  
Johnson's where  
he & I spent the rest  
of the day, & a most  
disagreeable time  
we had too.

There was ice this morning  
& frost, but nothing killed.

[page 44, side 2]

Thursday, M'ch., 24th., 1881.

Theo & I went with  
a wagon up to Mrs.  
Milton's and got 17  
roses & 14 fruit trees—  
9 peaches & 5 apples.  
He gave her \$15 for  
the whole lot, but  
left the largest  
peach tree to move  
next fall.

We did not get them  
all set out until  
after night. But  
for a breeze all  
day, if would  
have been  
disagreeably warm. The  
sun shone very  
brightly. Theo & I play  
cards, as usual, at night.

[page 45, side 1]

Friday, M'ch., 25th., 1881.

Theo & I drove down to  
the Ldg., to get our  
mail & to take Mr.  
Gatewood a jar of  
my tomato pickle.  
We went by & stayed  
about an half hour  
with Mrs. Ford &  
Miss Eliza. When we  
returned home,  
found Annie &  
Cave & they stayed  
with us until night.

Saturday, M'ch., 26-'81.  
Theo & I rode all around  
the place this morning.  
He had Sylvester  
behind & Lycurgus  
in front of him

[page 45, side 2]

They enjoyed the  
ride so much.  
We came by home  
& left them, then  
rode on down  
to see cousin  
Kate & Bob. Met  
their new governess  
Miss Baker.  
I made this  
afternoon a  
jelly cake &  
some wine jelly  
for tomorrow.  
Had a letter from  
bro. Ralph today.  
He seems in good  
spirits & writes  
often. It is bedtime  
& I have to put  
my hair in crimp & bangs.

[page 46, side 1]

Sunday, 27 March \_ 1881.

The "singing" met today  
at Mrs. Starling's.

I enjoyed it very much,  
& every one seemed  
to have a pleasant  
time. We there heard  
that Annie had  
been taken sick.

Theo went up to see  
her after we got  
home & had lunch.

Found that she  
was truly having  
slight pains \_not  
in real labor. He did  
not see Annie or his  
Mother. Aunt Ann got  
there today. I am so  
anxious to hear from  
Annie & will be so glad when she is delivered.

[page 46, side 2]

Monday, 28th., M'ch., 1881.

Theo & I rode around  
the place. Came  
home, took the boys  
& drove up to see  
Annie, who gave birth—  
to a boy this morning  
at 6 O'clock. It is  
the largest infant I  
ever saw. He is  
named William for  
Maj. Starling.

We then drove up  
to Sunny Side.

Theo expected to  
find his eggs, but  
they had not come.

I made some

Wine Jelly for Annie,  
which I will take  
up in the morning.

[page 47, side 1]

Tuesday, M'ch., 29\_'81.  
Theo & I rode horse-  
back up to the Village.  
He had to go sell  
Maj. Robinson's place  
for Joel\_ as Admtr. on  
his father's estate\_ &  
Genl. Reynolds bought  
it in for Joel. I spent  
the day with- Mrs.  
Sessions. At the birth  
of her child last Fall  
she lost her mind  
but is now entirely  
restored & has a  
splendid boy. We  
called by to see  
Annie. Walter came down  
spent the evening & took  
supper. My ride today  
was the longest I ever took on horse-back—30 miles!

[page 47, side 2]

Wednesday, M'ch., 30th., 1881.  
Theo, the children & I rode  
down to the Ldg., after the  
mail. Theo had a letter from  
Mama. Lycurgus rode  
back behind Cave.  
13 of my roses came.  
I sent for 15. The seed  
did not come, but  
I guess will by  
next mail. I wrote to  
Mama today & Mrs.  
Anderson, the Matron  
of the orphan Asylum

in Louisville. Through  
Aunt Julia's kindness  
I may get a girl.  
Theo & I set out the roses  
with great care & I  
hope every one will  
live. Have 2 turkey eggs.

[page 48, side 1]

Thursday, M'ch., 31st., 1881.

The, the boys & I drove  
up to tell Mrs. Milton  
goodbye. I feel so sad  
to see her leave.  
We stopped by to see  
Annie on our way  
home. Had a letter  
from Mama & my  
seeds came today.  
The white girl came  
down tonight. My 1st.  
impression is very  
favorable. Her name  
is Emma.

Friday, April 1st., 1881.

Aunt Julia called for  
about an hour, then  
Mrs. Hebron & Miss  
Marshall came. I

[page 48, side 2]

Think I will like  
Emma first rate.  
It is cold & windy all  
day. The ground was  
frozen this morning  
& there was plenty  
of ice.

Saturday, April 2nd.,  
Aunt Ann, Mrs. Johnson  
& Walter spent the day.

I had Jack Harwood  
take up the carpets  
in the dining room  
& back Hall & dust  
them. We have  
examined the Peach  
trees & find all the  
peaches killed. I regret  
it so much, as ours  
never bore before. There  
was ice & a heavy frost.

[page 49, side 1]

Sunday, April 3rd. 1881.  
We drove down to  
the Landing for our  
mail, then up to  
aunt Julia's to the  
singing, but no one  
played the accompaniments  
& so we had  
no singing. Lycurgus  
is almost well  
again. I forgot to say  
he had fever all  
Friday night & again  
last night. It had  
been so long since  
we had any sickness,  
neither Theo nor  
I could sleep. But the oil  
Theo gave him last night  
has benefitted him so much.  
I sent Annie a loaf of

[page 49, side 2]

bread & some Wine  
Jelly this morning.  
After Lunch Theo &  
I drove up to see her.

Monday, April 4th., 1881.

Theo took the buggy  
down to the Ldg.,  
where there is a  
black-smith-boat,  
to have it repaired.  
On the 1st. of this  
month, I begun  
having three  
meals. After  
dinner Emma & I  
go to sewing on  
my calico dress.  
Sister Mary, cousin Isaac  
& Walt come down & take  
tea with us. Walt stays all night.

[page 50, side 1]

Tuesday, April 5th., 1881.

The weather is warmer  
& bright. I teach  
Sylvester (who is  
learning fast)  
then write a letter  
for Uncle Chas,  
practice & read  
until dinner.  
Afterwards I sew  
some on my dress.  
Walt comes by to  
say goodbye. He is  
on his way back to  
St. Louis. Had a  
letter from bro. Rob.

Wednesday, April 6th., '81.

There was a nice  
shower last night  
which will benefit

[page 50, side 2]

everything. The day  
has been clear and

bright. I had a letter  
from bro. Ralph.  
From the Clarion  
I learned of the  
death of Mr. Alex  
Bussey, an old Bastrop  
friend of mine.

Thursday, April 7th., 1881.  
It rains almost all  
the morning. Theo,  
Mr. Hixon & uncle  
Charles set out Cauliflower,  
Cabbage & Tomato plants.  
Theo, also plants  
some water-melons  
& cantaloupes.  
Theo, Sylvester & I, leave

[page 51, side 1]

Lycurgus asleep, & ride  
horse-back up to  
Mrs. Johnson's. Found  
Annie sitting up.

Friday, April 8th., 1881.  
It has cleared off.  
Theo, the boys & I drive  
up to Sunny Side to see  
if our eggs have come  
but find they have  
not. On our way  
home stop to leave  
a bottle of honey for  
Annie's baby, who has  
thrash. I finish my  
calico dress today, that  
I commenced when  
Theo went to N.O.  
It makes a stylish  
pretty suit.



[page 51, side 2]

Saturday, April 9th., 1881.

We all drive down  
to the Ldg. for our  
mail, but I have  
no letter from Mama  
dear & feel greatly  
disappointed, for  
it has been more  
than a week since  
I heard from her.  
Theo set a hen on  
9 Turkey eggs yesterday.  
The "singing" meets  
at our house  
tomorrow.

Sunday, April 10. 1881.

Linnie came down  
soon after breakfast,  
but about 11 o'clock

[page 52, side 1]

it commenced to  
rain & continued  
for 2 hrs. It prevented  
anyone else from  
coming to the singing.  
Linnie and I sang a  
great many hymns.  
About 2 O'clock  
Cousin Bob called  
& Mr. Holly also.  
Late in the afternoon  
the sun shines out  
& Theo, the boys, take  
a drive. Still no  
letter from Mama or  
Sissie.

Monday, April 11th., '81.

After breakfast, I

taught Sylvester, then

[page 52, side 2]

darned stockings until  
10 O'clock when aunt  
Julia came down & spent  
an hour. After she  
left, Theo & I drove  
up to Sunny Side  
& on our way home  
stopped to see  
Annie.

Tuesday, April 12th., 1881.

Theo, the boys & I rode  
all around the place  
the first thing after  
breakfast. Returning  
home, found a large  
mail with a letter  
from Mama  
enclosing a ~~letter~~ postal  
from Dr. Ward. He  
wrote that Sissie

[page 53, side 1]

had measles but  
was well & at her  
studies again. I hope  
she will write to  
me soon for I  
have not had a  
letter from her in  
a long, long time.  
I got lettuce for  
dinner, then wrote  
to Mama & bro. Rob.  
Lycurgus could not  
be discovered  
for some time this  
afternoon & when we  
found him, he was

lying on the grass in  
the front yard asleep  
with high fever. He  
is still right sick.

[page 53, side 2]

Wednesday, April 13—  
Lycurgus still has  
fever. I feel very  
anxious about  
him. Theo slept  
with him last  
night & gave him  
Calomel. I had a  
postal from bro.  
Ralph this morning.  
I finished Mama's  
gloves today. It is  
very cold again.

Thursday, April 14th., 1881.  
Theo, Lycurgus & I drove  
to the Ldg., for the  
mail. Found our  
box of dry-goods, ordered  
from Ban's 11 or 12

[page 54, side 1]

days ago. I cut Lycurgus  
out 2 under-shirts  
& 6 prs. drawers, which  
Theo sewed up on the  
Machine.  
We had radishes,  
lettuce & mustard  
greens for dinner.  
Something like a  
Vegetable dinner!  
In the afternoon  
Theo, the boys & I  
called at aunt  
Julia's where we

met Mrs. Hebron & her  
husband also cousin  
Linnie. We then drove up  
to Mrs. Johnson's for a few  
minutes. Lycurgus has high  
fever again, all night.

[page 54, side 2]

Friday, April 15th., 1881.  
Today was Good Friday!  
The children are  
impatiently looking  
forward with much  
pleasure to Easter  
Eggs, & I am going  
to do my best to have  
their expectations  
realized. Both of the  
dear little fellows  
have been sick  
all day with fever,  
but are better  
tonight & Theo got  
Sylvester to take oil.  
They both have  
colds. Mrs. Ford  
with Mary & Pattie  
called this afternoon.

[page 55, side 1]

Saturday, April 16th., 1881.  
George Gates took up  
the carpet in my  
room & Emma  
cleaned the room.  
In the morning cousin  
Linnie came down  
& asked me to drive  
up to Mrs. Johnson's with  
her. I consented & we  
spent an hour or two  
there. The boys both

had fever last night,  
but were up all day.  
They look very badly.

Sunday, April 17th., 1881.

Easter Sunday.  
Although the boys  
were sick all night  
they would go out in

[page 55, side 2]

the garden & hunt  
for "Rabbit Eggs".  
They were wild  
with joy when they  
found them. How  
easy it is to make  
their little hearts  
rejoice & it is the  
greatest pleasure  
I know to make  
my loved ones  
happy. After breakfast,  
we took the  
boys up to see  
Dr. McGavock, but  
he had gone to  
Greenville. Met  
Aunt Julia going  
up to Mrs. Starling's  
to the singing.  
She gave the boys

[page 56, side 1]

some Easter Eggs.  
We drove down for  
the mail & to get  
the children some  
hohound [horehound] candy. They  
cough every minute.  
Coming back one  
of the buggy wheels

broke down & we  
had to walk about  
an half mile.  
Mrs. Johnson, sister  
May, & Cave called  
a few minutes.  
Theo took me out  
to show me his corn  
coming up. Had a  
letter from bro. Ralph.  
Hear he is becoming  
homesick &  
discouraged.

[page 56, side 2]

Monday. Apr., 18th., 1881.  
Cloudy, but no rain.  
Theo is planting his  
German Millet & the  
boys & I rode on the  
barrow. I write  
to Mama & send her  
gloves, besides a  
great many business  
letters & postals  
to Sissie & Eliza  
Robertson. Then sew  
on Lycurgus' drawers.  
Theo brings Lydia  
Starling down on  
his horse, she takes  
supplies & we both  
take her home.  
She is a very sweet  
sociable child. Both  
of our boys are better.

[page 57, side 1]

Tuesday, April 19th., 1881.  
The first thing after  
breakfast, I wrote  
a long letter to bro.

Ralph, then finished  
Lycurgus' drawers.  
We are invited  
to a dining today, given  
by cousin Linnie to  
Mrs. Caddie Johnson,  
a relative from Ky.  
But can-not go as  
we have no vehicle.  
At night, we take  
tea by invitation,  
with aunt Julia.  
Am much pleased  
with cousin Caddie.  
Sylvester does not improve  
as fast as Lycurgus.  
He coughs

[page 87, side 2]

with nearly every  
breath. Cave goes  
to Vicksburg tonight  
to see Miss Marshal.  
Had letter today  
from Mama, bro.  
Rob & Sissie.

Wednesday, April 20—  
I sewed on and finished  
Lycurgus' two  
waists, then cut out  
& went to making  
pillow & bolster  
cases. Some of  
Theo's eggs came today,  
but none of the Turkey, Duck, or  
Game eggs & Theo is  
much worried that  
they did not.

[page 88, side 1]

Thursday, April 21—1881.

The boys are both  
almost well again  
& I am so happy.  
We are now threatened  
with an over flow, which  
if it should happen,  
would be very  
destructive. Theo  
has all the cotton  
planted & a great  
deal of it up.  
He went up to his  
Mother's this evening  
& got Tomato & Sage  
plants, which he  
set out & uncle  
Chas. set out pepper  
& egg-plants.

[page 88, side 2]

Friday, April 22nd., 1881.  
Theo & I rode all around  
the place after  
breakfast, then home  
or a drink of  
water. Our cistern  
water is the coldest  
in the county. If it  
could only remain  
so, we would not  
need any ice this  
Summer. Then we  
went up to Sunny  
Side & got some  
white-wash brushes  
& vegetable seed.  
Had a short letter  
from Mama. Sylvester's  
young goose has  
hatched 3 goslings. We  
have 40 Turkey eggs setting.



[page 89, side 1]

Saturday, April 23rd., '81.  
Aunt Maria has been  
sick since yesterday  
& Mary has been cooking  
for her. We made a  
pound cake today. I had  
our spare room cleaned  
& put Theo's & my flannel  
away. The boys have not  
pulled theirs off yet.  
A light shower this  
afternoon caused Theo  
to plant out cabbage  
& Tomato & plant a row  
of peas.

Sunday, April 24th., 1881.  
It rained hard  
last night & of course  
benefitted everything  
Cotton, corn, Millet &

[page 89, side 2]

gardens\_all will  
come up & grow  
faster.  
Theo & I have stayed  
at home all day,  
read, walked  
around & had a  
good time generally.  
Had a letter from  
bro. Ralph. His letters  
are too brief to be  
satisfactory. I want  
more of the details  
of his life.  
Annie & her husband  
rode out this evening  
& Mrs. Johnson, sister  
May & her husband

passed but did  
not stop.

[page 90, side 1]

Monday, April 25th., 1881.  
Annie & Mrs. Starling came  
down & spent the day  
with their children.  
The baby is just four  
weeks old today & it  
was the first time  
he had been out.  
It was also, Annie's  
birthday- she being  
27 today. It rained  
very hard during  
the day.

Tuesday, April 26- 1881.  
Theo & I rode horse  
back up to Mrs. Johnson's.  
It rained on us both  
going & returning. We  
have had too much  
rain now & I do hope

[page 90, side 2]

the sun will shine  
tomorrow.  
I wrote to Mama &  
both my brothers, also  
wrote for a dozen  
more roses.

Wednesday, April 27th.-'81.  
Sylvester's cough  
has returned &  
he has been quite  
unwell all day.  
I wrote several  
letters, the finished  
"Endymion"- Lord

Beaconsfield's last  
novel & today I read  
of his death. He will  
be a great loss to  
England. Made 3 prs.  
pillow-cases.

[page 91, side 1]

Thursday, April 28th., 1881.  
Theo & I rode horse-back  
up to Sunny Side & made  
a few purchases. Sylvester  
was particularly  
delighted with the story  
of "Little Red-riding Hood"  
which we brought him.  
He seems some-what  
better today. When I asked  
him today his lesson  
he replied, "if Mother  
knew how badly me felt,  
she wouldn't ask me  
to say a lesson", but he  
got his book & said it.  
He can-not bear to displease  
either Papa or I.  
In the P.M. I mended my clothes,  
cleaned out our closet & read  
"Arkansas Gazette" & Home & Farm".

[page 91, side 2]

Friday, April 29th., 1881.  
I finished the pillow  
& bolster cases today.  
Then went to see Theo  
put up his barb wire  
fence. Came back  
& read "Courier  
Journal" & worked  
the children's  
garden for them.  
Our garden enemy-

the cocoa grass-  
makes it a hard  
fight to keep  
the garden clean.  
Mrs. Johnson came  
in the afternoon &  
spent an hour or two.  
She told me that  
Callie \_Mrs. Ford's baby  
was very sick.

[page 92, side 1]

Saturday, April 30- 1881.  
Theo & I rode down to  
see Callie. She was  
better. Is just recovering  
from pneumonia.  
Went by for the  
mail. Found letters  
from Mama & Sissie.  
We had 5 vegetables  
for dinner today.  
In the afternoon  
we took the boys  
& rode up to Mrs. Johnson's.  
We put a suit on  
Lycurgus that Sylvester had  
outgrown. He looks so  
cute & sweet in pants.  
Sister May's little Lute  
looks dreadfully. She  
has been sick for some  
time. Had a pleasant visit.

[page 92, side 2]

Sunday, May. 1st., 1881.  
Linnie & Vick had  
promised to come  
down & spend the  
day, but sent word  
Annie Peak had  
come & they could

not leave her.  
Theo & I spent a  
delightful day  
alone with  
our dear little  
boys. I am reading  
the "Koran".

Monday, May, 2- '81.  
Theo, the boys & I ride  
up to Sunny Side.  
After dinner I  
assist in preparing

[page 93, side 1]

a nice lunch to take  
with us fishing tomorrow.

May 3rd. \_Tuesday-  
Bright & early we start  
for our days sport  
Theo, the boys & myself,  
with aunt Maria,  
her little Hattie & Jim  
Lawson. We all go in  
a wagon. Stop by  
Mrs. Johnson's to give  
her a bouquet of our  
new roses which are  
superb. Linnie joins  
us & we go to Ditch  
bayou, cross over &  
by to catch some fish  
but the water is  
too muddy on acct.

[page 93, side 2]

of high water & so  
our efforts are  
unsuccessful, but  
we buy a 15lb catfish  
from the fishermen

there, Aunt  
Maria fries it very  
nicely & we have  
quite a feast. Cousin  
Isaac joins us at  
lunch. About 4 O'  
clock we start home,  
stop at Red Leaf &  
go over the house.  
It will be quite  
handsome when  
completed. Sister  
May expects to move  
up in about a month.  
Got out at Mrs.

[page 94, side 1]

Johnson's to see Annie  
Peak & her baby (Annie  
Lydia) which I found  
to be a little beauty.  
There I learned the  
sorrowful news of  
my beautiful Callista's  
death. Uncle Charles  
rode her up to Sunny  
Side, hitched her  
quite close to the bayou,  
she got in & was drowned.  
Theo sent to Kentucky  
for her last Spring &  
made me a present of  
her. She was a lovely mare.  
I never grieved so for  
anything not human  
before. She was my pride  
& joy & I did enjoy  
riding her so much. Old

[page 94, side 2]

Uncle Chas. seems  
to regret it as much

as possible. Says  
he never had but  
one greater sorrow  
& that was the loss  
of his wife.  
Oh! my beautiful  
lost Callista- no  
other horse can ever  
take your place.

Wednesday, May 4th., 1881.  
Annie Starling & Annie  
Peak with their two  
little babes came  
down & spent the day.  
Vick & Linnie with  
Lydia Starling drove  
down for Annie &

[page 95, side 1]

Linnie & Annie Peak  
stayed all night.  
Lydia also.

Thursday, May 5th., 1881.  
Annie & Linnie remain  
all day again & Mrs. Reynolds  
& Mrs. Valentine  
also dine with me.  
Aunt Julia spends  
an hour. We had  
a real nice dinner  
& Cave treated us to  
strawberries which he  
got from Vicksburg.  
Had a letter from  
Berry. Every one  
seemed to enjoy  
themselves. Every where  
is so improved since we  
had white-washing done.

[page 95, side 2]

Friday, May 6th., 1881.  
Today is Theo's 29th.,-  
birthday. For the first  
time since we married  
it was unnoticed  
& unmentioned. I  
thought I would  
follow his example  
in regard to my  
last. This morning  
I wrote to Mama,  
Sissie & bro. Ralph.  
In the afternoon  
cousin Isaac came  
by & told me Annie  
Peak's baby had  
just died without  
5 minutes warning  
of heart disease.  
He went to the  
the Ldg., to send a

[page 96, side 1]

man down in ~~the~~ ~~the~~ a  
skip for Mr. Peak.  
He stopped by for  
me & I went up  
in the buggy & sat  
up all night. It was  
the first corpse I ever  
sat up with. The babe  
looked beautiful.  
I sympathise with  
poor Annie for she  
idolized the little  
one. It was 2 mos. & 4  
days old. Theo came  
up as soon as he got  
home & heard it, but  
returned at dark to  
be with the boys.



Linnie & I sat up the  
whole night. Annie  
bears it better than I expected

[page 96, side 2]

Saturday, May 7th., 1881.

I bathed my face &  
combed my hair, then  
felt almost well  
as if I had slept  
all night. After breakfast,  
Theo & the boys  
came up & I returned  
home with them.  
Slept about an  
hour, ate dinner  
& got back to Mrs.  
Johnson's before 2 O'clock.  
The baby was buried  
there in a vault. Mr. Peak  
came up on the Dean Adams.  
Maj. Starling read the  
funeral service. Coming  
home we stopped at  
Aunt Julia's. I went to bed  
early & slept soundly all night.

[page 97, side 1]

Sunday, May 8th., 1881.

Only a postal from  
Mama, when I was  
expecting a long letter,  
but she wrote she  
was well & that makes  
me happy. It has  
rained very hard  
nearly all the  
afternoon.

Monday, May 9th., 1881.

I finished the pillow cases  
then repaired the bar in

the spare room. In the  
afternoon cut Sylvester  
a shirt & sewed it up.  
(O) It has rained most  
of the day. I hope it  
will cease, so the cotton  
can be worked.

[page 97, side 2]

Tuesday, May, 10th., 1881.  
It cleared off today,  
& I hope it will  
rain no more until  
Theo gets his crop  
worked over.  
We have distressing  
news about the  
water— all the  
upper rivers are rising  
again. I pray to God to  
avert an overflow  
now, for it would  
miss us. At night we  
take the children down  
to the Landing to see a  
theatrical performance on  
a boat. We as well as  
they enjoy it immensely.  
I wrote to Mama, Mullin  
Sublett, Olivia Lawrence,

[page 98, side 1]

& the girl Hattie I used  
to have, also finish  
Sylvester's shirt & cut  
both he & Lycurgus  
a sailor suit of  
grey flannel.

Wednesday, May 11th., 1881.  
The weather continues  
fine. After breakfast

Sylvester & I cut flowers  
& make bouquets  
for parlor & dining  
room. Then I teach  
him & make him  
a pr. Pants. Theo put  
the pockets in as I did  
not know how. In the  
evening we work  
some of our  
flowers.

[page 98, side 2]

Thursday, May 12th., 1881.

I sew all morning.  
Theo takes the two boys  
on his ox wagon,  
where he has 2 bulls  
he is trying to break.  
They run into a  
ditch, throw them all  
off the wagon & Lycurgus  
get a bad cut  
just over his right  
eye. I fear it will  
leave an ugly scar.  
Sister May & cousin  
Isaac with Fot & Lycurgus  
come down while  
we are at supper &  
spend the evening.  
I work my border  
& some of the roses  
before supper.

[page 99, side 1]

Friday, May 13th., 1881.

I made Lycurgus a  
little sailor suit  
& he looks so nice  
& cute. In the afternoon  
I watch

old Harvey work  
the shrubbery.  
Weather beautiful  
& lovely moonlight  
nights.

Saturday, May., 14th., 1881.

Well I think I must  
have taken holiday, like  
the darkies, today, for  
except writing to aunt Fannie,  
Clarence & Mama & 2 or 3  
business letters, I can't  
recall anything I've done. The  
roses came, looking dead.

[page 99, side 2]

Sunday, May 15th., 1881.

We read & spend  
the day quietly and  
pleasantly.  
Theo sends down &  
borrows Mr. Hunt's  
dog-cart & after supper  
we take the  
children & drive up to  
see Mrs. Johnson.  
When we get back  
uncle Chas. in taking  
the horse around to  
the stable, runs  
over the style steps  
& breaks one of the  
springs. I regret it  
so much, though  
of course Theo will  
send right off for  
another.

[page 100, side 1]

Monday, May 16th., 1881.

Weather continues fine

& Theo's hands are busy  
getting their cotton cut  
out. I cut out two suits  
of blue flannel for  
the boys. The water  
is coming on Theo's  
place. Several places  
are overflowed, but  
the upper rivers  
are falling & I hope  
it will commence  
here in a day or  
two. Out of 30 of Theo's  
fine eggs, only 8  
hatched. He thinks  
they are light Brahmas  
& they are little  
beauties. We have 18  
little Turkeys.

[page 100, side 2]

Tuesday, May 17—1881  
After teaching Sylvester,  
I write to Sissie,  
bro. Ralph, Barr & Co,  
& Hattie.  
Make Lycurgus suit  
of blue flannel.  
Go over to the  
Lake & find the  
water falling.  
Glorious!!

Wednesday, May 18—'81.  
No news, no change.  
The weather is  
splendid. I am still  
engaged on the boys  
suits, but hope to finish  
them tomorrow.  
After supper, we all  
take a walk.

[page 101, side 1]

Thursday 19th., May. 1881.

Have a letter from  
bro. Rob & get two  
Demorests. I am glad  
to get it back again.  
Theo has sent to  
Hewit, Sharp & Co.  
for our buggy wheels  
& I hope we will  
get them soon I  
miss our drives  
so much & then  
since I lost my  
loved Callista, I  
am deprived of  
my horse-back  
rides. We now have  
27 little Turkeys.  
Hope we will be  
successful in  
raising them.

[page 101, side 2]

Friday May 20th., 1881.

I finished the boys  
suits today. Sylvester's  
fits very nicely  
but Lycurgus' is  
a failure.  
It commenced  
raining at noon  
& rained slowly  
the rest of the day.

Saturday, May 21– 1881.

I cut out a dress &  
wrapper for myself,  
& Theo makes me  
4 Neckties.  
Cleared off about  
noon.

Sunday, May 22\_'81.

It rained again

[page 102, side 1]

in the afternoon.

Theo set a hen on 7  
turkey eggs. We all  
walked over to the  
Lake & found the  
water falling fast.

I got the Hammock  
today that I ordered  
from Buckner  
& Co. Theo likes it  
better than our old  
one. Mr. Holley  
took tea & spent  
the evening. We  
sang many hymns  
together.

Monday, May 23\_1881.

Lycurgus was sick  
last night with  
fever & a terrible cough.

[page 102, side 2]

He helps Theo & I awake  
a good deal. He is  
so gentle & sweet.

I never saw a better  
child when sick.

He is so patient &  
obedient. I gave our  
washing back to Riata.

Emma tried to do it  
but the result each  
week was a miserable  
failure.

Theo, the boys & I rode  
all over the place  
after dinner. The 1st ride

I have taken over it  
since I lost my dear  
Callista. All the  
crop, except old Sam  
Brown's looks lost  
in the grass, but

[page 103, side 1]

the hands are all  
working well & Theo  
hopes to get it clean  
next week.

After supper we  
take a walk. Met  
Sister May & her  
husband.

Tuesday, May 24th., 1881.

It rained again  
this afternoon, but  
Theo says the hands  
did not cease working.  
I sewed ~~mr~~ a little  
on my dress. Lycurgus  
is no better. At night  
his cough is much  
~~better~~ worse & we sleep  
but little. Sister May &  
Cousin Isaac spend evening.

[page 103, side 2]

Wednesday, May 25th., '81

Sister May sent her  
buggy down for me  
& we all went up  
& spent the day at  
Mrs. Johnson's. Had a  
pleasant visit.  
Mrs. J. & Linnie will  
go down to pay  
aunt Ann a visit  
tonight.



Aunt Julia comes  
down after we get  
home.

Thursday, May 26th., 1881.

Aunt Julia sent her  
carriage down for me  
& we (she & I) went  
up to Mrs. Starling's  
& called. I went up

[page 104, side 1]

To Annie's room & sat  
with her most of the  
time. She & aunt Julia  
are not on speaking  
terms & of course she  
could not come down.  
Miss Laura Starling  
joined us & we went  
up to Mrs. Hebron's.  
She had dined, but  
had in a short time  
a nice dinner  
prepared for us.  
I could not enjoy myself  
for leaving Theo. It is the  
first time I ever went off  
& left him & I am sure  
I wd. feel hurt if he  
ever went riding  
without me & I know  
he never will. He is

[page 104, side 2]

so kind & considerate.  
Mrs. Hebron came  
back with aunt Julia  
to spend a day or two,  
also, Miss Starling.  
Theo & our little men  
met me at the bend

of the Levee, got in the carriage & we all came home so happy to be together again.

Mrs. Starling gave me a good many cuttings & my dozen roses came today, looking fresh.

Also, had a letter from Sissie. She was to have spent the vacation with us but Mama changed her mind & she is going

[page 105, side 1]

directly home.

I am greatly disappointed not to have her.

Miss Eliza & Mrs. Ford's 3 little girls called.

I am very sorry I was not at home as they all leave for Ky. soon.

Friday, 27 May., 1881.

I am thoroughly disgusted with the calico dress Theo & I are making, I will however, finish it from principle, as it is my rule never to leave anything undone or incomplete.

No company, or do we leave home.

[page 105, side 2]

Saturday, May 28—1881.

Annie & Mrs. Starling, with their two little

ones spent the day.  
We all had a nice  
time & a fine dinner  
of vegetables. Cucumbers  
for the first time.

Sunday. May 29th., 1881.  
Had a letter from Mama  
& learned the R.R.  
from Delta to Monroe  
was under water &  
she said Sissie wd.  
have to stop with  
us. I will be so glad  
to see her. I have spent  
most of the day reading  
11 chap. in the Bible &  
newspapers.

[page 106, side 1]

Monday, May 30th., 1881.  
Cloudy & threatening  
rain, at night it rains  
very hard.  
The rest of Theo's  
fine eggs came  
yesterday, consisting of  
Game (B.B.R.) chickens,  
white Guinea, Muscovy  
Duck & Bronze Turkeys.  
He has not a hen  
that is sitting.

Tuesday, May 31st., 1881.  
I finished my dress  
today, but don't like  
the way it fits.  
It rains very often  
during the day. I wrote  
to bro. Rob, aunt Mat &  
Craig & Co.

[page 106, side 2]

Wednesday, June 1st., 1881.

Theo, the boys & I ride  
up to see sister May.  
She is setting some  
of Theo's eggs for him.  
He now has them  
all set. Lost a little  
Turkey today, leaving  
24. Had a letter  
from bro. Ralph &  
my old friend &  
school-mate Eliza  
Robertson of Nashville.  
Emma takes up the  
carpet in the back-  
room, beats it &  
Theo tacks it down.  
We give the room a  
thorough cleaning &  
get in readiness for  
Sissie. Old Fred

[page 107, side 1]

mowed the front  
yard today. Theo  
surprises me  
with a broiled  
chicken for supper.  
It is the first we  
have had. It still  
rains & the crops  
are in a terrible  
condition.

Thursday, June 2nd. 1881.

We paid Mrs. Ford &  
Miss Eliza a visit, went  
by the Ldg. for our  
mail, then home  
just before dinner.  
I hem 2 spreads in the

afternoon & baste up a wrapper. Theo works on the sump of the cistern. Clear

[page 107, side 2]

Friday, June 3rd., 1881.  
Miss Eliza & Pattie Ford spent the morning & invited us to come down & spend next Monday with them, if they did not leave for Ky. before. They are expecting their boat at any time. Uncle Chas & Emma are both sick. We are now enjoying delightful weather— Sunshiny & cool enough to be very pleasant. Had a postal from Sissie saying she wd. leave Nashville on 31st. ult. I look for

[page 108, side 1]  
her any minute.

Saturday, June 4th./ 1881.  
Emma & uncle Charles still come home sick. Theo & I give the house a thorough cleaning. I make a Jelly roll & some soft ginger-bread. Cave sends word that little Lute has had a convulsion. We hasten up & find her very low. Stay till 10 O'clock.

Miss Eliza will sit up  
all night. I fear the  
child will not recover.  
Cousin Linnie & Miss  
Laura Johnson also  
call to see her.

[page 108, side 2]

Sunday, June 5th., 1881.  
Theo & I drove down  
in Mrs. Johnson's old  
carriage (she has given it  
to Theo now, since Mr.  
Cable presented her  
with a handsome  
new one) early to the  
Landing & found that  
Sissie had just arrived  
on the Providence. We  
were truly glad to see  
her & "Ingleside" will  
extend to her a warm  
welcome during her  
stay. She left the dear  
old Alma Mater, last  
Tuesday. While waiting  
in Memphis, she  
met our Mother's  
relatives- the Lakes.

[page 109, side 1]

We came back &  
breakfasted, then went up  
to see dear little Lute.  
Found her about the  
same. Mrs. Johnson &  
Linnie got back from  
Leota [Mississippi] this morning.  
Theo brought me  
home to be with  
Sissie, then he returned  
& stayed with the

Little Darling until she died, which was about 2 O'clock. Some think she had pneumonia & others that it was only fever with a severe cold. She died in a convulsion. Theo & I sat up all night. I moved Emma over in the Nursery. She is better.

[page 109, side 2]

Monday, June 6th., 1881.

We came home at 7, slept until 9 when we breakfasted. After dinner, Sissie, Theo, the boys, & I went up to the funeral. A great many attended. Maj. Starling read the church service & we sang several hymns. We went in sister May's room & stayed a little while with her then came home. I gave out supper, then we all drive on the Ldg. to mail a letter to Mama & make a few purchases.

[page 110, side 1]

Tuesday, June 7th., 1881.

Very warm & rains in the forenoon. Aunt Ann came up on the Dean Adams. Had a letter from my old

room-mate, Olivia  
Hopkins- now Mrs.  
Lawrence. She is  
living in Nashville.  
It has been over a  
week since I had  
a letter from. I feel  
uneasy about her.  
Aunt Maria is still  
sick. Mary is cooking.  
We are afraid has  
whooping cough & sister  
May's children cough the  
same way. Lost a Turkey.

[page 110, side 2]

Wednesday, June 8th., 1881.

Miss Eliza came up to  
call on Sissie & spent  
the morning with us.  
After dinner I write  
to Mama & bro. Ralph.  
Theo, the boys, & I got  
up & call at Aunt  
Julia's on Cousins  
Laura & Mamie  
Johnson. Invite them  
to take tea with us  
tomorrow. We then  
go up to Mrs. Johnson's.  
Cave calls  
on Sissie & stays  
to supper.  
I think today has  
been the warmest  
day this year. Aunt  
Maria & Emma still sick.

[page 111, side 1]

Thursday, 9th., 1881. June.

I make a jelly cake-  
almost melt while



cooking it. Aunt Julia,  
the Miss Johnsons & Mr.  
Holley take tea. We  
have a delightful  
time. Miss Eliza & Mary  
drive up in the  
afternoon to invite  
us to take tea with  
them tomorrow.  
While they were here  
a terrible storm &  
rain prevailed, but  
it only lasted about  
an half hour, then  
the sun shone out  
brighter & fresher  
than before.

[page 111, side 2]

Friday, June 10- '81.  
Intensely hot all day.  
Our new double  
harness came.  
As aunt Julia told  
us last night, that  
the boys had the  
veritable, genuine  
whooping-cough,  
we could not  
take them to Mrs.  
Ford's. Theo stayed  
with them, while  
Sissie & I went &  
of course enjoyed  
ourselves. One could  
not have other than  
a pleasant time there.  
We came home about  
9 O'clock. Found Theo  
had put up the boys

[page 112, side 1]

new bed, arrived  
today from St. Louis.  
He & the little ones  
gave us a glad  
welcome.

Saturday, June 11th., '81.  
Miss Eliza & Mary  
took dinner with us  
on their return from  
Sunny Side. I am glad  
to say Aunt Maria is  
cooking again, & she  
today, gave us a very  
nice dinner, with  
dessert. After dinner  
Theo & I made 2 new  
bars. It is very hot.  
The boys cough has  
been better today.  
Okra for the 1st time

[page 112, side 2]

Sunday, June 12th., 1881.  
We cleaned up the  
house, ate breakfast,  
then drove down  
to the Ldg., for the  
mail, found  
nothing but the  
Courier Journal.  
Sissie & I sing  
several hymns  
then read most  
of the day. In the  
evening we all  
take a drive.

Monday 13th., June-  
Theo began to  
mow his oats today.  
Emma, we sent  
to the Ldg., to go up

on the boat with

[page 113, side 1]

Mrs. Ford. We paid  
1/2 her passage. I am  
so glad to be rid  
of her.

Tuesday, June 14—  
Theo is still cutting  
his oats & clover.  
Had a long letter  
from Mama.  
After supper we  
drive up to Sunny  
Side. It is hot in  
the superlative  
degree.

Wednesday, June 15—'81.  
The weather is intensely  
hot, but it is  
fine for the hay.  
In the morning

[page 113, side 2]

Theo & I drive up  
to Mrs. Johnson's.  
Find Lydia quite  
ill with whooping  
cough & hear that  
Lydia Starling is  
also very sick  
with it. In the  
afternoon, we drive  
up to the Starling's  
to see her. She is  
much better & Linne,  
who has been  
staying with Annie  
returns with us as  
far as her Mother's.

Cousin Jimmie  
Peak came up this  
morning. I never  
felt warmer  
weather.

[page 114, side 1]

Thursday, June 16th., '81.  
Sissie, Theo & I drive  
up to Mrs. Johnson's  
after breakfast to  
see Lydia. She is  
much better & we  
have a very pleasant  
little visit.  
Coming back we  
stop & get the boys  
& go on to the  
Ldg. I hope to find  
my dress that I ordered  
from Mrs. Dougherty  
some time ago,  
but it has not yet  
come. We drive  
out again after  
supper. Still hot,  
but I am glad of it,  
for it will make the

[page 114, side 2]

cotton grow.

Friday, June 17th., 1881.  
I finish my wrapper.  
Sylvester is becoming  
very thin & has  
not seemed  
at all well today.  
Late in the afternoon  
Sissie, the boys & I  
join Theo in the  
oat field & have

a nice ride on  
the hay wagon.  
After supper, we  
all drive down to  
the Landing & Sissie  
buys a calico  
dress. We all suffer  
with the excessive  
heat.

[page 115, side 1]

Saturday, June 18th., 1881.  
Had a letter from  
Mama this morning.  
Sissie works all  
day on a calico dress.  
I write several  
business letters & to  
Mama & the boys.  
After supper we drive  
up to Sunny  
Side & find a white  
dress there, Theo ordered  
from Memphis.

Sunday, June 19th., 1881.  
After breakfast we  
all drive down for  
the mail. While  
we are at Lunch  
Aunt Julia, Mrs. & Mr.  
Hebron call in.

[page 115, side 2]

With the thermometer  
92 in the shade, I  
feel inadequate for  
any exertion.  
We take our  
usual evening drive.

Monday, June 20th., 1881.

Sissie has been sick all day & so we could not go up & take tea with Aunt Julia as she invited us on yesterday to do. Mr. Holley & Cave called in & drank some ale with us. I wrote a long letter to Olivia & sent Mama two "Households". A little cooler today.

[page 116, side 1]

Tuesday, June 21st., 1881.

A breeze made it pleasant most of the day. Theo & I took a nap after dinner under the umbrella china tree.

Mrs. Johnson came down after dinner or rather in the evening. She looked dreadfully.

Wednesday, June 22\_'81.

Delightful breeze all day. We need rain very badly. Finish a shirt for Sylvester. Theo is at work repairing the carriage. Will have to send the up to St. Louis.

[page 116, side 2]

Thursday, June 23rd., 1881.

Still very warm. After dinner, we drive down the road for

some moss. Go by the  
Ldg., find a long  
letter from Mama  
& Sissie has one from  
Lizzie Dunn.  
Cut out a shirt  
for Sylvester.

Friday, June 24th., '81.  
Today passes much  
as usual. We have  
a little shower in the  
afternoon that cools  
the atmosphere &  
benefits all vegetables.  
I darn stockings,  
read & etc.

[page 117, side 1]

Saturday, June 25th., 1881.  
I make some Spanish  
pickle, at least take  
them in through the first  
course. Then write to  
Mama. Linnie comes  
down, spends the day  
& is staying all night.  
Had a pic. from Mama.  
She says, Sissie  
must go home by  
Vksbg. I am so sorry  
she can-not wait &  
go with us.  
Had our 1st. black-  
berries for tea.

Sunday, June 26\_1881.  
Intolerably hot & sultry  
all day. Linnie  
stays with us until

[page 117, side 2]

after dark, when sister  
May & her husband  
drive down for  
her. We all take a  
walk after supper.  
I write to Mama &  
bro. Rob.

Monday, 27 June- 1881.  
Theo commenced  
cutting the German  
Millet today. I worked  
around both Rookeries.  
My eyes feel  
like they are getting  
sore. Sissie has not  
been well all day.  
I make 4 gals. of  
Spanish Pickle  
by aunt Julia's recipe  
& some Blackberry Jam.

[page 118, side 1]

Tuesday, June 28 - 1881.  
Mrs. Johnson & sister  
May with Lydia & Tot  
spent the day. Sissie  
went home with them.  
Wednesday, June 29-'81.  
Theo & Sylvester went  
up for Sissie. It is  
the 1st. time Sylvester  
ever made horse-back  
alone. Had letters  
from Mama & bro.  
Rob. Mama writes  
that Sissie can wait  
& go home with us.  
I ride all around  
the place with Theo.  
The crop looks fair-



some of the cotton is  
small, but 1/2 is fine.

[page 118, side 2]

Thursday, June 30– 1881.

A very, very hot  
day. I sew a little  
try to read some too,  
but suffer so  
with heat, I find  
it difficult to  
exist even when I am  
idle. We all keep  
well & that is joy  
enough.

Mrs. Kate Starling  
with her husband  
& children & Miss  
Starling call in the  
afternoon. After  
they leave we  
have tea, then drive  
to the Ldg. but have  
to hasten back, as a  
rain & wind-storm is threatening.

[page 119, side 1]

Friday, July 1st., 1881.

It rained last night  
& until about 10 O'clock  
this morning. Everything  
is suffering for rain  
or was. The corn is  
burnt up. But, now,  
that they say the  
cotton worms have  
come, it will be pretty  
bad for us if we have  
much rain or cloudy  
weather. God grant  
that they may not  
destroy the crop as

they did last year  
& blight our hopes!  
If Theo can only get  
out of debt this year  
& pay off the mortgage  
on his place, I will then be happy.

[page 119, side 2]

Saturday, July 2\_1881.  
Sissie, Theo & Sylvester  
rode down for the  
mail. Brought me a  
letter from Mama.  
I am deeply grieved  
to learn she has been  
very ill. Hired a new  
house-woman today-  
Rhoda. She seems to  
understand her work.  
We all spend a pleasant  
day at Mrs. Johnson's.  
Sissie stays  
with Linnie all  
night. It rains on  
us coming home &  
continues to rain  
most of the night. I  
write to Mama. She  
is 46 yrs. old today.

[page 120, side 1]

Sunday, July 3rd., 1881.  
After breakfast, Theo, the  
boys & I drove to the  
Landing & there learned  
the startling & disheartening  
intelligence of Garfield's  
assassination on  
yesterday at noon.  
No particulars. A  
great many will think  
that Grant, Conkling

& Arthur were involved  
in it. We drove up for  
Sissie & met Annie,  
her husband & children  
who had come down  
to spend the day.  
Miss Laura & Mamie  
Johnson, also Mr.  
Holley & Joel spent  
the evening with us.

[page 120, side 2]

Monday, July 4th., 1881.  
The glorious fourth!  
is but little observed  
here. Some colored  
people march by  
to the music of a  
drum. Theo & I rode  
all around. Most of  
his negroes were at  
work. The latest news  
is that Garfield was  
shot twice with a  
pistol, by a frenchman  
who says he did it  
for the good of the  
Republican party.  
Garfield is still alive  
but there is little hope  
that he can long  
survive. We all drove  
up to Sunny Side at night.

[page 121, side 1]

Tuesday, July 5th., 1881.  
Bright & early we all  
started to Lake  
Village, except Sissie  
who prefers to spend  
the day with Linnie.  
We drive with Mrs.

Reynolds & in the  
afternoon, call on  
Mrs. Valentine, Mrs. R.  
accompanying us.  
There met Mrs. & Mr.  
Chas. Sessions.  
We started home  
at 6.30 & reached  
our house in a little  
over 2 hrs. I never  
had a more pleasant  
visit, & Theo & the  
boys enjoyed it equally  
well.

[page 121, side 2 – page 125 are blank]

[page 126, side 1]

“When, could we but  
know the temptations  
& trials of frail ones  
that fall, our judgment  
were tempered with  
mercy & tender compassion  
for all.”

[page 126, side 2]

We may write our names  
in albums;  
We may trace them in the sand;  
We may chisel them in marble,  
With a firm & skillful hand;  
But the pages soon are sullied;  
Soon the sand will wash away;  
Every monument will crumble  
Like all earthly hopes decay.  
But, dear friend, there is an album  
Full of leaves of snowy white  
Where no name is ever tarnished,  
But forever pure & bright.  
In the “Book of Life” God’s  
album-

May your name be writ with  
care,  
And may all who here have written  
Find their names  
recorded there”.

[page 127, side 1]

~~[/strikethrough]~~ illegible ~~[/strikethrough]~~

Nothing resting in its own  
completeness  
Can have worth- or beauty;  
but alone,  
Because it leads & tends  
to further sweetness.  
Fuller, higher, deeper, than  
its own.  
Life is only bright  
when it proceedeth  
Toward a truer, deeper  
life above.”

[page 127, side 2]

Commenced gardening  
Feb., 8th., 1887-  
Planted, Mustard,  
Lettuce, Radishes, &  
Onion sets. Also  
Irish Potatoes.

[Note in margin] Dark Moon

Feb., 25-  
Peas, Turnips, Bunch  
Beans, Beets, Radishes,  
Lettuce & onion  
sets. In hot bed-  
Lettuce, Tomatoes  
& Pepper.

[Note in margin] Dark Moon

Transcript of Gertrude P. Johnson diary, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

M'ch., 10th.

Sweet Potatoes, Cabbage,  
Pepper, Parsley, Celery

[Note in margin] Dark Moon

M'ch-16&17

Parsnips, Salsify, Radishes  
Beets, Peas, Lettuce, Parsley  
Pea-nuts. (Dark moon.)

[page 128, side 1]

Blank

[page 128, side 2]

Mr. Holly  
Mr. Adams  
Maria Harris  
Mrs. Johnson  
Mrs. Cone  
Mr. Hixon  
Lydia Johnson

[back inside cover]

"Gone are the dear ones  
who loved me of old,  
Few there are to welcome  
me home"

[End]

Transcript of Gertrude P. Johnson diary, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Names (by order of appearance)**

Lydia Johnson - Daughter of Theodore and Gertrude

Pearl Johnson - Daughter of Theodore and Gertrude

Mrs. Johnson - Lydia Taylor Johnson, mother of Theodore

Bro. Ralph - Ralph Maitland Parsons, brother of Gertrude

Cousin Bob -  
Robert Johnson Adams, brother of Linnie

Miss Eliza Watkins - boarder/Nurse for Ford family

Berry - Asbury Hope Whetstone, uncle to Gertrude

Napoleon (McCalellan) - house servant, husband to Mary

Hattie - former Johnson house girl

Uncle Billy - died November 24th, 1880

Annie- Anna (Annie) Johnson Starling, sister of Theodore

Mr. Buckner - Henry S (father), James, or Newton (sons) Buckner, Cotton Factors/Financiers of New Orleans

Lute - Lucy C Worthington

Mr. Ford- William Warfield Ford  
Mrs. Ford - Ann (Annie) Margaret Milton Ford

Linnie - Linnie Johnson, sister of Theodore

Tot - Additional details unknown

Mama - Mary Graves Whitstone Parsons, mother of Gertrude

Sissie - Annie Pearl Parsons, sister of Gertrude

Aunt Maria - Johnson Family cook, likely Maria Harris, mother of Mary Brooks

Cousin Linnie - Linnie Adams Calhoun, daughter of David and Betsey Johnson Adams

Papa - Sylvester Gould Parsons, II, father of Gertrude

Aunt Julia - Julia Johnson Johnson, Aunt of Theodore, widow of Gov Isaac Johnson of Louisiana

Cousin Lucy Cable - likely also Lucy C Worthington

Walt - Walter Johnson, brother of Theodore

Mr. Brooks - Possibly Henry Brooks of Planters Township, Chicot County, Arkansas

Sister May - May Johnson Worthington, sister of Theodore

Lydia - Daughter of Isaac and May Johnson Worthington

Joel - Cousin to Theodore, son of Cyrus R Johnson and Marie Worthington

Lycurgus Worthington - son of Isaac and May Johnson Worthington

Mary, wife of Napoleon - Mary Brooks McCalellan

Transcript of Gertrude P. Johnson diary, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Mary Ford - Daughter of William and Annie Ford

Mrs. Valentine - Mary Louise Fisher Valentine

Mr. Milton - Col William A Milton

Mrs. Katie Davis - Kate Sessions(?) Richardson Davies

Mrs. Milton - Florence Clark Milton

Mrs. Hebron - Elizabeth Marshall Hebron

Aunt Mat - Martha (Mattie) Whitstone Marable

Mrs. Starling - Marie Antoinette Hensley Starling

Dr. Marable - Dr. George B. Marable of Bastrop, LA

Harvey Williams - Theodore's hired hand

Old Uncle Charles Barnes - Replaces Napoleon as house hand

Mr. Gatewood - Possibly George C. Gatewood

Mary - woman who miscarries; Additional details unknown

Mr. Starling - Charles Hensley Starling

Old Woman Millie - midwife

Mr. Rennie - A florist

Dr. McGavock - S. C. McGavock

Bro. Rob - Robert Hinson Parsons, brother of Gertrude

Capt. Calhoun - John C. Calhoun, II

Uncle Robert - Robert Whetstone

Cousin Isaac - Isaac M. Worthington, husband of Sister May

Annie Peak - Annie Sessions Peak, daughter of Daniel Helon and Theodosia Taylor Sessions

Cave - Cave Johnson, brother of Theodore Johnson

Miss Lolla Starling - Laura (Lollie) P. Starling

Mrs. Reynolds - Martha (Mattie) Wallace Reynolds

Cousin Kate - Likely Katherine Hunter Adams, wife of Cousin Bob

Maj. Robinson - Maj James Forbes Robinson

Mr. Holly - Additional details unknown; possibly Jacob Haley, Government Light Keeper of Louisiana Township, Chicot County, Arkansas

Miss Goode - Governess to the Milton Family

Miss Rebecca Williams - Additional details unknown

Dr. Smith - Dr. George or James Smith of Washington County, Mississippi

Mrs. Avant - Eleanor Avant

Hewit, Sharp, & Co. - Additional details unknown



Transcript of Gertrude P. Johnson diary, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Annie Marshall - Sister of Elizabeth Marshall Hebron

Mrs. Caddie Johnson - Cousin of Theodore from Kentucky; Additional details unknown

Tom Worthington - Son of Ann Taylor Worthington, Theodore's cousin

Callie - Daughter of William and Annie Ford

Miss Baker - Governess for Robert and Katherine Adams

Hattie - Aunt Maria's daughter/granddaughter  
Jim Lawson - Farm laborer from Louisiana Township, Chicot County, Arkansas

Aunt Ann - Ann Taylor Worthington, sister of Lydia Taylor Johnson

Annie Lydia Peak - Daughter of James Shirley and Annie Sessions Peak

William - son of Annie, named for Maj. Starling

Mullin Sublett - Additional details unknown

Genl. Reynolds - Daniel Harris Reynolds

Olivia Lawrence - Olivia Hopkins Lawrence of Nashville, Tennessee

Mrs. Sessions - Mary Jane Hutchins Sessions, wife of Charles E Sessions

Aunt Fannie - Additional details unknown

Mrs. Anderson - Matron of the orphan Asylum in Louisville, Kentucky

Clarence - Additional details unknown

Emma [White?] - Domestic servant to Gertrude and Theodore

Mr. Hunt - Richard Hunt, merchant, of Louisiana Township, Chicot County, Arkansas

Jack Harwood - Additional details unknown

Barr & Co. - Additional details unknown

Mr. Alex Bussey - Of Bastrop, Louisiana

Riata - Additional details unknown

Mr. Hixon - Additional details unknown

Old Sam Brown - Farm laborer from Louisiana Township, Chicot County, Arkansas

Pattie - possibly, Pattie Paige Ford

George Gates - Farm laborer from Louisiana Township, Chicot County, Arkansas

Miss Laura Starling - Daughter of General Lyne and Marie Antionette Hensley Starling

Eliza Robertson - Daughter of Charles and Ann Thomson Robertson of Nashville, TN

Old Fred - Additional details unknown

Lydia Starling - Daughter of Charles and Annie Johnson Starling

Pattie Ford - Pattie Paige Ford, daughter of William and Annie Ford

Miss Laura Johnson - Cousin of Theodore; Additional details unknown

Transcript of Gertrude P. Johnson diary, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Mr. Cable - Additional details unknown

Mamie Johnson - Cousin of Theodore;  
Additional details unknown

Jimmie Peak - James Shirley Peak, husband  
of Annie Sessions Peak

Mrs. Dougherty – Dressmaker; Additional  
details unknown

Lizzie Dunn - Friend of Annie Pearl Parsons;  
Additional details unknown

Mrs. Kate Starling - Kate C Watson Starling,  
wife of Lyne Starling (son of General Lyne  
and Marie Antionette Hensley Starling)

Rhoda - House servant for Johnson Family;  
Additional details unknown

Mr. Charles Sessions - Charles E Sessions,  
husband of Mary Jane Hutchins Sessions

Maria Harris - Aunt Maria, Johnson Family  
cook

Mrs. Cone - Henrietta Cahn, wife of Saloon  
Keeper Michael Cahn of Louisiana  
Township, Chicot County, Arkansas