

Thursday Jan.

Fort Davis, Stephens Co., Texas.

rather than yesterday. 1st. 66:- It has been the will of
come in this I should see this the first day of the
buffalo meat, But shall I see the last one? Who
Christerson, & me? None but Him who gave me
by a breath of life, and who will take it away when
Buffalo thinks it proper. I am now past
some 60 - six years of age, and if I should be spared
of this to live to a common old age I have no longer
and less in this world than I have already lived.
before, man's life is truly but a short time and nothing
but vapor. Time soon calls man's full term
60 or 70 years over his head, and before he is a
Prince of it he is entering his tomb there he
sleeps until he is awake on the last day.
During the past year there was an insurrection
with the greatest rebellion that ever happened
in our witnessed, and freedom thereby given to all
thousands of negro slaves. Slavery is now entirely
abolished in the United States of America, but to
accomplish it there was a long, severe, and
destructive war between the South and North.

At this time Texas, and I presume some
of the Southern States, it was not yet
organized and admitted into the Union as
states.

Wesley Stockton, B. D. Miller and S. L. Miller were in
this place today, they are on their way out on a buffalo
hunt. They brought me up a fine pair of boots and
hat and for my wife a fine cloak, deep pattern and a
pair of shoes, these are all I got of the many things
that I sent for by Wm L. Stockton.

My boy was taken a great deal worse

has already had a very hard time of it and
not see that his health has improved.

Tuesday, Jan. 2nd / 66:- This is another
which nothing of interest took place in my
I commenced my third term of school in
to-day. I expect to teach three or four more
by that time the people of this place will begin
and upon their ranches if we have any production
Spring. I have already taught nine months and
weeks in this part. I saw James Neal and B. F. Bro
in town to-day, and I understand that Mr. Neal said
had heard that the Overland Mail was to be carried
over the old route through this country again, by the same
contractors that had it in hand before the late rebellion.
If such is the case it will be a great benefit to
this country. Gus is a little better than he was yesterday.

Wednesday, Jan. 3rd / 66:- This has been quite a
cold day, the wind blew from the north. One party
of the Buffalo hunters came in this evening late.
They say that they saw a great many buffalo but did
not have the good luck to kill many. I can not
see that Gus is any better; sometimes I think he is
getting well very fast, and then he gets very low
again before we think of it. I weighed him last
Sunday and he was two pounds lighter than he
was when he was only three months old. He will
be five months old the 21st of this month, if he
lives that long. I think it strange that he
holds his flesh so well after being so sick as
he has been and so long.

Thursday, Jan. 4th 1861 To-day has been some-what

colder than yesterday was. Some more buffalo hunters came in this morning, with their wagon loaded with buffalo meat, hides and tallow. One of them, E. C. Christerson, became disabled while out on this hunt, by a pretty bad rising on the back of his hand.

Buffalo hunting is excellent sport, and many persons go one or two hundred miles to take a hunt of this sort. My boy had a very bad spell last night, and looked weaker to-day than I ever saw him look before, though he has rested very well to-day. We are sitting up with him to-night; it is now twelve O'clock P.M. and he is sleeping in his cradle.

Friday, Jan. 5th 1861 Col. J. McCarty and his son Dick left here this morning for home. They have made a very lengthy stay in this place. The Col. talked of moving up to the country again, when he first came up there, but I think he had changed his mind upon the subject before he left. All things are going on after the old style in this country. The people of this country do not have much to do in the winter season, not like the farmer in farming country, who is never through with his work. The busy time of a year with stock raisers is spring, summer and fall; though during the winter they have their year's supply of bread-stuff to get laid in, which is a pretty big job as they have to go one or two hundred miles after it. If such a story was told to the people of an old country; that we sometimes went nearly two hundred miles to mill, it would appear to them very strange and almost incredible. Business is some better to-day, I think.

Saturday, Jan 6th 1861 - The wind blew very

hard to day and made the dust very disagreeable in this place. Whenever it is dusty, and it is very often that in this country, and the wind blows as it did to-day, it will get into the tightest house and then into the closest trunk enough to be noticed very plainly. Sand storms are very common here in the spring, especially when the winter has been drouthy. They are heavy winds that come from across the plains west of here and bring clouds of sand with them; something like the sand storms in Africa that we read about but on a great deal smaller scale. This country has some peculiarities that are very disagreeable. The principle ones are, the sand storms in spring, the northers in winter, the travelling grass hoppers in the fall and the long, severe and parching drouths in the summer and all other seasons of the year. This is a good grazing country and answers very well for stock raising, which is the only occupation followed by the people of this country. But the cold northers in winter scatter the cattle very badly. Men in this country gathering their stocks, often hunt over scopes of country, seventy-five miles in diameter. The cow hunter of this country starts out upon his one or two weeks hunt with his wallet of provision and camping blanket tied to his saddle, and his cow whip, which is from ten to sixteen feet long, and then his gun lashed to the bow of his saddle to protect himself from the indians. Thus equipped he travels over a large scope of country, driving in his stock to mark and brand the calves, and whenever night overtakes him if there is plenty of water and grass he

camp, hobbles his horse, eats his supper of bread, dried
beef and cold water, then lies down upon his blanket
with his saddle for a pillow and sleeps as soundly
as a king in his palace on a bed of down.

Last night about half an hour before midnight, Mrs.
Christensen gave birth to a fine looking boy, which is
the seventh child that has been born in this place.
I think Gus is a great deal better to day; he does
not have much fever and looks very well.

Sunday, Jan. 7th / 66;— This has been a cloudy,
warm day, and looks a little like we might have
some rain before many days, but all signs
of wet and dry weather fail sometimes in Texas.
This part of Texas is very ^{much} subject to drouths, so
much so that the largest streams often stop running.
And springs are very uncommon, though out south
west of here towards the Rio Grande they are more
plentiful and very large. I have seen springs out
in that country as large or larger than any I ever
saw anywhere ^{else}. The river San Caba bursts out of a
mountain and is a very good sized stream at
its head; and there are several other rivers in
that part of Texas that are formed the same
way. But in this part of Texas I know of but
very few springs, except some that run out of the
river banks, and can only be used at the time of
very low water. The Sabbath is a long, dull, some-
times day in this place as we have no preaching,
I would very much ^{like} once more to live where I could
hear the word of God preached at least once a week.
The people of this place could well afford to have preach-
ing here if they were so disposed, but then it is doubt-
ful wheather they could get any one that would risk
the ~~perilous~~ ^{perilous} ~~to~~ ^{to} come out here to preach for us.

Two gentlemen came in from Fort Belknap this evening, and bring the news that there were indians in Belknap a few nights ago. Also J. S. Evans came from Leinches ranch on Hubbard's creek and says that the indians have stolen all the horses from that ranch lately. The indians untill now have given us an unusual long rest from their depredations. It has been three or four months since I have heard of them in this country untill to-day. Gus looks a great deal better to-day, though he is beginning to get poor and look pale and weak. I think he must be improving fast from all appearances, and if we can keep him from taking another back set he may be well in a few days.

Monday. Jan. 8th 1861. This has been another warm cloudy day and quite damp, but it has not rained much yet. Most of the people of this place started out early this morning to look for their horses, after hearing the indian news that was brought in last night, though I have not heard of any horse being gone. The wild indians are a great trouble to this country, and likely will be for years to come. If it was not for them, this would be the best country to raise horses in that I ever saw. This mesquite grass makes excellent grazing both for summer and winter, and I think horses raised upon it would be superior to those raised where they become very poor during the winter season. I learned this morning that the horse that W. B. St. John started to Mexico upon, was back at Greer's ranch on Hubbard's creek in very good order. And also that it was reported that the boys were killed by indians, but it is not very generally believed. Gus is still improving in health.

1

Tuesday, Jan. 9th/661- The sky is still cloudy, and the air still damp. Several cowboys, Mr. Evans, J. C. Evans, W. H. Anderson, Kate Bragg, P. Scott and M. H. Anderson, left here this morning for Fort Belknap. Mr. Evans is trying to gather beef steers to deliver to Mr. Scott for a small stock of cattle that he has bought of him. I hear of a great many, who have small stocks, selling out and leaving the country, now that there is no danger of being forced into the army service if they leave the frontier, as there was during the late war. The war drove a great many persons out to the frontier, that would not otherwise have ^{been induced to leave} lived upon the frontier. But as there was no one forced into the regular service from this country, a great many came out here to evade the service, but now that the war is ended they are going back to older settled countries.

Wednesday, Jan. 10th/661- Another damp, cloudy day in which nothing of interest happened withing my hearing. My pen is but a poor magnifier, and it requires a subject of great importance to make any thing of it. It is not like some pens that I have read of, that can make a mountain of a grain of sand, or a whale of a minnow;

John Wilson, Mr. Irwin and several others left here to day, for the salt works (Seabitter) for the purpose of bringing in a broke down wagon that had went from here for salt.

I think that my boy, Carlos Augustus Newcomb, is nearly well, but for ~~some~~ ~~excess~~ cause he cannot hold up his head as he should, it draws down upon his left shoulder, and the thumb on his left hand is cramped very badly.

Thursday, Jan. 11th / 66:- Another day in which I have nothing of importance for my pen to record in its humble manner.

I have been a little unwell to day with a bad cold, the worst that I have been troubled with for a long time. M. Anderson and J. S. George got in to-day from a milking trip, they were gone about six weeks. Some of the crowd that started at the same time and some that started one or two weeks before they did, have not got back yet.

Friday, Jan. 12th / 66:- My cold was so much worse to-day, and had affected my talking faculties so much that I could not teach school to-day, as I could not speak above a whisper. I stayed in the house nearly all day to-day, as it was of no use for me to go out, for I could not talk to any one with any satisfaction.

Saturday, Jan. 13th / 66:- This has been quite a pleasant day even for this country at this time of the year. J. B. Dawson and T. E. Jackson started down the country to Weatherford, Parker Co. to day. John B. Dawson has been up here on a buffalo hunt.

Sunday Jan. 14th / 66:- We were greatly surprised this morning by the arrival of S. I. Reynolds and S. S. Huff into this place. They have been gone with a drove of beef steers, three months with the exception of three days. When they left here they expected to drive to old Mexico, but after getting down upon the Rancho they heard that beef steers were not selling very well in old Mexico, so they changed their notions and course for New Mexico. There were only three of them and they must have had a hard

time of it, guarding their cattle every night one at a time, one third of the night each. They say that they met a crowd of men upon the plains, that asked them where they were from and if there ~~was~~ was all that was along; and when told that it was they, expressed themselves surprised and said, that they gloried in their courage but did not go much on their judgement.

But they made it through without meeting any very bad luck or indians, though they ran some very narrow ~~sides~~ ^{sides}. They sold their beef steers in New Mexico near the head of the Rio Pecos. After they sold out, W.R. S. John, who it appears had owned a claim in the mining regions at Pikes Peak, heard of his partner selling out their claim for a large sum of money, and as the other two boys said they thought they could make it back, alone, he left them and went on to Denver City to receive his share of the profit. From there he expected to take the Overland Mail for home, which he could make in about six days from Denver City. Very likely he is, at this time, at home with his father and mother talking over his adventures in Texas, Mexico and Pikes Peak. I am thinking of starting up to that country myself, in a few months to see if I have any parents living. I am getting very anxious to be off, and am only waiting for the rising of grass. At which time, if I am not disappointed, it will find me on my way up north with a small bunch of beef steers, and as soon as I can get them in at a good market, I shall strike a straight course for where my father was living when I heard from ^{him} last, which has been about five years. Gas is nearly well if not quite.

Monday, Jan. 15th/66 - Mr. Duncan came in from mill this evening, he has been gone a long time. Marist Spetherlin who went with him has not come in yet, he says he left him down at Weatherford without any team to come home with, as they lost one of their team. Fort Willet came up with Mr. Duncan. It has been several months since he was ^{up} here last. I also learned that he had the misfortune to loose his horse on the way up here.

Tuesday, Jan. 16th/66 - I sold out my town property in Fort Davis, today, to Messrs. Albert and William Anderson for beef steers to be delivered when I get ready to start north in the spring. I had the best building in this place, but that is not saying much, ~~It is~~ ^{It is} 24 X 18 feet, divided into three rooms. The largest room is in the west end of the house, and is eighteen feet long by ten wide, and has an outside door on the south and a window on the north and a good fireplace on the west side of the room.

There are doors leading from this room to each of the other rooms. The kitchen room is in the south east part of the house, and has an outside door on the south, and a good fireplace in the east end of the room. This room and the ~~bed~~ ^{bed} room are of the same size, namely; 8 X 14 feet. The bed room has only one door, the one leading from the west room, and has a window in the north side. The floors are all of plank. All the doors have good latches and the outside doors good locks. The walls are all of pickets with the cracks plastered on both sides with mortar. The roof is of pickets covered with dirt.

Wednesday, Jan. 17th 1866:— Nothing of interest happened in this place ~~today~~, untill late this evening after I had dismissed my school, the people, both men and women, were a little interested with an old buffalo that some one had fenced in the cow pen. They shut the gate, and then after a long time they got a ~~carriet~~ on his horns and then one around one hind leg. After they had gotten him in this manner it was not long untill they had the monster of the forest on his back, in spite of his kicks and struggles to get free. And while they had the unfortunate buffalo down, they cut him up pretty badly, and among the rest they cut his tail short off. He was then let up and drove out of the lot, and he took his course into the fort among the houses. After being rocked pretty severely and shot at two or three times, he went down the river bank into the river, and never came out. The boys concluded that they had seen enough sport from one buffalo, so they shot him dead.

Thursday, Jan. 18th 1866:— The weather has been warm and pleasant to-day, and from the appearance of the sky, I think we may have some rain before long. I commenced fixing up an old house this evening, to move into next Saturday, as I have to give the Mr. Andersons possession of my house on that day. I expect to move into the house that J. B. Steel built for himself last winter, but he did not live in it long, neither do I expect to live in it very long myself. I think there will be several houses in this place, for sale, or to let, very cheap, by spring.

Friday, Jan. 19th / 66! - This day has been made
notable by one of the most ~~terrible~~ ^{unpleasant} sand storms
that I ever saw. It had been warm and pleasant
untill about four o'clock this evening, when the
wind commenced blowing from the north and
brought with it one of the heaviest sand storms
that I ever witnessed in this country. It lasted
untill sunset and during the hardest of the
storm it was with difficulty that any one
could see across this fort; one hundred steps.
Merriett Chatterlin came in from Weatherford
this evening, without his wagon and team.
He lost his team and left his wagon near
Weatherford. I expect this is the last night
that I will ever spend in this house. We have
been living in this house just one year.

Saturday, Jan. 20th / 66! - This has been a very
cold day, a pretty cold day to move in, but as
I had promised to give possession to day I
had to move. It did not take us long to move
what few things we have. The house that we
have moved into is not a very good one, but
I think we can out-do with it very well
what time we have to stay in this place.
I have been at work pretty busily to day moving
and fixing up the house that I have moved
into. The young folks had a very respectable
dance to night in the house that I moved out
of, as it was empty and nothing in the way.
After they had commenced dancing I went
up and witnessed their performances a little
while. I was very much surprised to see
Leige Johnson and Archa Medlin in the ball
room, as I did not know that they were in town.

Sunday, Jan. 21st /66:- It has been some pleasanter to-day than it was yesterday, though to-day has been some coal. Albert and William Anderson took possession of their house to-day by moving into it. I was up there after they had gotten things set up right, and they appeared to be amazingly well pleased with their new home. This is their first start to housekeeping, both for Albert and William.

In that house I have spent some happy hours, some as happy as any I ^{ever} expect to enjoy in this world. It was there our boy was brought into existence, and there I named him. It was there that I first saw his bright blue eyes, and there I first heard him laugh.

And there was another move to-day, Adakaria moved boarding from Mr. Anderson's to Mr. McLaugh's. She appears to be a very extraordinary personage with some of this place.

Geo is five months old to-day and does not weigh as much as he did when he was only three month old by one pound. When he was three months old he weighed twenty one pounds, but he only weighed twenty pounds to-day. I think he is about well now and his neck is about straight.

~~Monday~~ Monday, Jan. 22nd /66:- Tod Willet, John Selman, C. Huff left here this morning to go to Weatherford.

A pretty large crowd of buffalo hunters started from this place this morning. Buffalo is still plenty not far from this place, and the people here go out and get fresh meat, hides and tallow whenever they wish to.

My dog (Jack) got a bait of strychnine this morning that had been set for a wolf. but I saved his life by pouring a vast quantity of grease down him. He had a few fits though.

Tuesday. Jan. 23rd / 66:- The weather has been some cool to-day; wind from the north. There has been some talk of a wedding in this place before long, but I understand that the mother of the young lady that is to be the bride, was storming mad yesterday at the thought of losing her daughter. But with all her objections, I do not think she can break up the match, for that is no easy matter after a young couple have every thing properly arranged in their own minds to marry.

Wednesday. Jan. 24th / 66:- This has been a very pleasant day, indeed. The boys in this place have had a little sport to-day with a buffalo, that the dog run into the creek near the fort. and M. W. Anderson drove in and pened another in the cow-pen, this evening. The greatest amusement to be enjoyed in this country is in hunting the buffalo, although it is attended with considerable danger.

Thursday. Jan. 25th / 66:- This has been another very pleasant day. This country begins to need rain very much, and grass can not grow untill we do have some. I am wishing for an early spring this season, so that I may get off on my trip up north the sooner. I am getting very tired of teaching school and want to travel a little, and try my hand at speculation of some kind. I think, I can make a living by trading, but I might find myself sadly mistaken, after trying it.

This country at this time is very dull, but the people are looking forward for better times. It is reported that the Over Land Mail coaches are to start again on this old route

shortly. If such is the case, and troops are stationed along this frontier, this country will come out a little from what it is at now.

Friday, 29th. 66:- Another pleasant day. The Mexico beef traders; John Anderson, Charles & William Wilson, Jr. Smith, and J. K. Jackson came in this evening. It appears from their story that they did not find a very good market for their beef. They drove their beef to San Antonio; from there to Eagle Pass and then back to San Antonio again. They sold at prices from seven to seventeen dollars in hard money which was very low. John Anderson has brought in a Mexican with him for a cow hunter. He can not speak a word of English, neither could John Anderson or any of his crowd speak Mexican, therefore there were in a very poor condition for talking much to their Mexican friend. The Mexican met up with some young men in this place that can talk Mexican a little, and he appeared to be as glad to see them as if he had found some of his kin folks. It must be an unpleasant feeling, to be in a foreign country surrounded by foreigners and unable to understand the language of the country. Mexicans are excellent hands among stock, but it is seldom that one can be found that is industrious and trust worthy. Mr. Jackson, Mr. Battif and Wm S. Hoover Esq came into Fort Davis late this evening. They left their wagons this morning which they think will be in tomorrow. Arch Battif is along, moving his family up to this country again. Mr. Hoover is bringing goods up to this place, going to set up a store in Fort Davis.

Saturday, Jan. 27th/66⁺ Another very pleasant day, in which I done nothing, but loitered about the fort. I have been a little unwell for a few days, with a bad cold, which appears to be growing worse instead of better. The wagons that were expected in to-day did not make it in.

Sunday, Jan. 28th/66⁺ Still pleasant; dry and needing rain very badly. Nothing new about this place except except the people are expecting to see a store set up in Fort Davis shortly. The wagons from below have not come in yet; it is thought that they must have met with some accident.

Mr. Current and family came over to this place to day on a visit to some of their kin folks.

Monday, Jan. 29th/66⁺ My school is continually getting smaller and smaller. This is the second time that a couple have stopped from school to marry.

J. C. Frano started from here this morning to go to Palo Pinto after license to marry a young lady in this place by the name of Mary L. Lutherlin.

The mother of the young lady is seriously opposed to her daughter's marrying, but it appears that they are determined in their notions and will marry in spite of her and her objections. Mr. Hoover's load of goods and the wagons that have been expected for the last two days, came in late this evening.

Tuesday, Jan. 30th/66⁺ John Hilton moved his family from this place to Camp Cooke, to day. That is about twelve miles outside of this place, and this is about fifteen miles outside of any other settlement, so it will be seen that he has moved to a wilderness country and on a frontier where indians are very troublesome. He is willing to risk more than I am for a little.

Wm S. Hoover set up his goods, in Mr. Wheeler's house, the house that Mr. Hilton moved out of to day. He has a pretty good supply of goods, enough to justify us in saying that we have a store in Fort Davis. He has domestic, calico, boots, shoes, hats &c. The price of goods is pretty high yet.

Wednesday, Jan. 31st 1861 - This day is the last of the first month of the year 1860. Only eleven more, and there will have passed another year over our heads. It is frightful to think how fast time travels, and how soon it will have man at the brink of his grave.

Mr. Arch. Battiff moved into a house to day, that he bought of J. A. Brownning. J. A. Brownning has sold out his town property in this place, and is preparing to go to some of the lower counties on a visit, with his wife.

Wm S. Hoover made very good sales to day, considering the size of his stock, and the size of this place. He sold to the amount of \$230.00.

Thursday, Feb. 1st 1861 - This day commences the second month of 1861. It has been very pleasant and warm. Tod Willett, John Selman and C. Kieff came in this evening from Weatherford. I have heard of no news of importance that they they bring. James Bogs and Sam. Lindsley came over from Hubbard's creek this evening. Mr. Oxford and Wm. Jannary came from Cloudy creek this evening.

A man by the name of Gilbert came into this place from Parker county. He is a man that I have seen before, but never had much acquaintance with. He was a guide in Capt. Cureton's company of the F. C. I. about three years ago.

Friday Feb. 2nd, 1861 - I notice Mr. Lynch and Mr. Ray in town this evening. They say that the Indians have given them another call and taken every horse they had on the ranch. Albert and William Anderson are sick with bad colds, and I am nearly so myself. E. C. Christenson, L. Current, M. Emberton and W. D. Reynolds came in from a buffalo hunt to day.

Saturday Feb. 3rd, 1861 - This has been a pretty cool damp day, and very likely will rain, snow, sleet or hail before it clears off pleasant again. Lynch, Ray, Mart Hoover, Boggs and Sam. Lowrey all left here this evening for home. Lynch is as full of fun and pranks as ever.

Sunday Feb. 4th, 1861 - This has been another damp cold day. We were expecting a wedding in this place to day, but have been disappointed, by the parson's family being so sick that he could not leave them. J. C. Frans is still at Palo Pinto waiting for the parson, they are expected to be up some time this week. George T. Reynolds went down with J. C. Frans, but could not wait so he came home yesterday. I think they expect to marry next Friday.

Monday, Feb. 5th, 1861 - There is some sickness in this place at present. The old lady Anderson is very low with some kind of winter sickness. And Al. and Will Anderson have been down sick with very bad colds. This country as a common thing is noted for its good health, but there has been considerable sickness in this fort during the past winter. There has been but very little snow in this country, this past winter.

Tuesday, Feb. 6th / 66 - As the old lady Anderson is some worse to day, M. H. Anderson and Sam. Battiff went over to Hubbards creek after Dr. Lindsey. Mr. Lindsey is not a doctor by profession but has had some practice in giving medicine. Marion McCarly, who had started to mill a few days ago, came in unexpectedly to night; he says that his team gave out and he was compelled to come back. This has been a very pleasant ^{day}.

Wednesday, Feb. 7th / 66 - Battiff and Anderson came in with Dr. Lindsey this morning about 1 o'clock. I notice Mr. John Zunderburg and Jack Smith in this place this evening. The old lady Datson came up to the fort to day, for the purpose, I understand, of weaving a piece of cloth; she will probably stay up here for some time. She has taken quarters in the little house of Mr. Irwin's that Maria lived in while she stayed with Irwin.

Thursday, Feb. 8th / 66 - Two gentlemen from about Weatherford came into this place late last night. They are after Marion McCarly like "a thousand Obriek" for debt. I think that Marion's creditors are begining to crowd him pretty close, as I hear a great deal said about it lately. Marion is owing these men that came in last night, one for a pistole and the other for a horse. James Guthrie came in this ^{evening}.

Friday, Feb. 9th / 66 - The wedding that was expected to come off last Sunday has not taken place yet, but the lady looked for bridegroom came in this evening with the Parson to tie the nuptial knot. We had preaching at the school house to night at 7, P.M.

Wm. Wilson passed through this place to day on his way up to Camp Cooper. O. L. Stockton and J. J. Davidson sent me a few goods by him to sell for them. The goods will not sell as fast as they would have done a few weeks ago, as W. S. Hoover has pretty well supplied this country. The old lady Anderson is still very sick. No news of any interest.

Saturday, Feb. 10th 1861. — We had preaching again at the school house this morning, and just as the service was about to close God. Willett and his bride, Lucinda Selman came in to be united in the bands of wedlock.

We had preaching again in the evening and at night. The Parson is complain^{ing} of a very bad cold, and he left a sick family at home. But he appears to be very anxious to do all the good he can in the way of preaching the gospel to sinful man; to do all he can for his eternal welfare. Such efforts surely will be successful.

Sunday, Feb. 11th 1861. — This has been a very pleasant day, and a day that will long be remembered by a few persons of this place. J. C. Grans and Margaret Sutherland were married this evening at 4 O'clock at the residence of the bride's mother. At 5 O'clock this evening parson Slaughter administered the ordinance of baptism upon the persons of Mrs. Selman and Miss Sarah Ann Jackson in the presence of a very large crowd. After this we had preaching again at candle light. The Parson was expecting to take his leave tomorrow morning, but has concluded to stay another day with the people of this place and preach for them.

Monday, Feb. 12th 1861 - When I left my father's roof, nearly nine years ago, I came to this strange land among strangers. Soon after I came here I was laid upon the bed of affliction with no mother or sister no father or brother to attend to my wants. When I had partially recovered from my sickness, I commenced thinking of God's mercies and of my sinfulness, and determined to seek His forgiveness. After a few fruitless efforts to pray, I was one night lying awake upon my pillow, that was already wet with my tears, thinking of my wickedness and how unworthy I was of Christ's notice. But then I thought of His words in which he said, that He came into the world to save sinners and that whoever asked should receive: I then poured out my soul to God and said; thy will be done, I will trust in Christ. I then felt that Christ had power on earth to forgive sins; I felt that my sins, which were numerous and grievous, were all forgiven. I afterwards felt a newness and lightness of heart that I cannot express, and felt it my duty to obey his command in being baptised, as he says, believe and be baptised. But I was young and among strangers, without any one to consult upon the subject and I let it pass from time to time untill to day, though every time I let an opportunity pass, I felt that I had grievously sinned in the sight of God. This morning just as the sun rose in the east and cast his morning rays across the tops of hills and trees, I was baptised in the river "Clear Fork of Brazos" at Fort Davis.

We had preaching at the school house this morn-

ring and at night. At 4 O'clock this evening
Wm. H. Anderson, Susan Anderson, Mrs. Erwin and Mrs.
Christerson were baptised.

Tuesday, Feb. 13th '66 - This morning before the Parson
took his leave he ministered the ordinance of baptism
to Marion M^r. Bartz and his wife Geriah M^r. Bartz.
The Parson left here in company with J. T. Reynolds
M. F. Barber and J. N. Jackson. I have been very
unwell to day with the sick head ache, so much
so that I did not teach school. A Mexican that
John Anderson has employed, left here to day to go
to Eagle Pass, alone, after his family and other
Mexican hands for the stock raisers of this
country. It is thought by some, that it is very
doubtful whether he comes back again or not.

Wednesday, Feb. 14th '66 - Last night there blew
up a dry norther, that will count for a N^o 1 even
in this country, and it has continued to blow all
day very cold. I noticed Mr. Sikes in town this
morning. Late this evening Mart Heaver came
in from Ledbetter's salt works.

Thursday Feb. 15th '66 - The norther that blew all
day yesterday, ceased at the setting of the sun.
But for all that, it was a very cold night last
night; the ice on the river was about half of
an inch thick. The sun rose clear and fe-
casant this morning and it bids fair to be
a pleasant day although it is so cold. The
old lady Anderson is some better, but John
Anderson is very sick. Two gentlemen that
were strangers to me came in town this evening.
I understand that one is a brother of Mrs. Jackson's
whose name is Boyle. The other is a friend of
Wm. L. Heaver by the name of Swallow.

Friday, Feb. 10th '66 - This has been rather a damp day, but has not rained. This country is in need of rain, now, very much. Nothing of interest.

Saturday, Feb. 11th '66 - Still cloudy and very damp. Three families moved out of the Port this morning, John W. Selman, J. Willett and the widow Selman. And there are others that are talking of moving very soon. Mr. Swallow and Martin Kroger left this place to day for Veale Station.

I understand that Al. Anderson's house caught fire last night, but was discovered in time to prevent much damage, the fire only destroying a few planks in the flooring. John Anderson is nearly well again, and the old lady is improving in health.

Sunday, Feb. 12th '66 - The weather has been some pleasanter to day than it has for the two or three that preceded it. I am greatly in hope that we will have some rain before very long.

Several persons met at the school house to sing, this evening, but they came very near making a failure. I understand that Jeff Anderson and James W. Anderson are very sick with the fever. It appears that that family has suffered more from sickness, than any other family in this place.

Monday, Feb. 13th '66 - This has been a very warm and pleasant day for this season of the year. Marion McPartz and James Cuthbert left here this morning for the lower country.

B. W. Reynolds with three or four hands went up to the Stone ranch to day, to prepare it for cow gathering.

Tuesday, Feb. 20th '66:- This has been a very pleasant and warm day, and if the ground was moist enough we would soon have plenty of green grass; if it should remain as pleasant as it has been today. Gen. Matthews is in this fort to night. The sick at Mr. Anderson's are some better I believe, but Mrs. Reynolds is very sick.

Wednesday, Feb. 20th '66:- Gus is six months old this morning, and weighs twenty-three pounds and a half, which is only two and a half pounds more than he weighed when he was three months old. The spell of sickness that he had, set him back a great deal, for he cannot sit alone yet, nor use his hands much.

The morning was a little cloudy, but this evening is very pleasant and warm. Mr. Mosley, J. F. Mauldin and Sam. Spinsley jun. are in this place to night. Mr. Mosley is selling out his stock of cattle for beef steers, at the rate of two cows and calves for a beef steer, which is a very good price.

Thursday, Feb. 22nd '66:- This has been another very warm and pleasant day, though about sunset the wind commenced blowing from the north. Mr. Mosley and C. Spinsley left here this morning, but J. Matthews and J. F. Mauldin are here yet amusing themselves occasionally with a few games of checkers. Baylor purchased a horse to-day, of J. Battlett, the horse that I was expecting to get for my trip up north this spring.

Friday, Feb. 23rd '66:- The wind has been blowing from the north very cold all day. Wm. Cannaday and a young man by the name of Hightower came up from the Bayas river with a yoke of steers to trade to W. S. Hoover for goods to-day.

Hightower, I think, has bought himself and
bride an outfit to marry in. The old lady Reynolds
is still very sick. There is still a great deal of sickness
in this place at this time, though none that
is thought to be very dangerous.

Saturday, Feb. 24th '60 - The norther that blew
all day yesterday has calmed down and it is
very pleasant to day. M. W. Anderson returned
from a trip to Weatherford, Parker Co., to day.
I have spent the day in fixing a clothes-box
for my boy. It is made of a small goods box, and
has two small drawers in the lid.

Sunday, Feb. 25th '60 - This has been another
very pleasant day. Last Sunday there was
an understanding with some of the people of this
place to meet at the school house to day and sing
and read, but very few met. We expect to have
preaching here next Sunday by parson Slaughter.
B. W. Reynolds and his hands came down from the
stone ranch to day. He says that they have gotten
the ranch about ready for cow-gathering. They say
that there is plenty of buffalo up there yet.

Monday, Feb. 26th '60 - Another very pleasant day.
A great many persons started out cow-hunting
from this place. People have begun to hunt cat-
tle some but they cannot do much at it until
there is more grass, and we will not have that
until it rains.

Tuesday, Feb. 27th '60 - The sky was cloudy this
morning and it looked a little like we might
have some rain shortly, but in a few hours it
all blew away and looked as little like rain
as it ever did. News came to this place this
evening that the indians stole all the horses

that were on the widow Glown's ranch, last night. The people of this place are very particular to night in tying up and hiding their horses, as they think that the same indians that stole from Mrs. Glown's ranch last night are in this neighborhood to night. This place has been very fortunate so far, there being but very few horses stolen from this place yet.

Wednesday, Feb. 28th '66:- This was another cloudy morning and looked a little like rain but the south wind soon blew all appearances of rain away again. With today, ends the second month of the year A.D. 1866. I have not heard of any horses that are missing to day; I do not think the indians succeeded in getting any horses from this place last night, but I hear of a great deal of indian sign about here. Sue is getting about as fat as he ever was.

Thursday, Mar. 1st '66:- This is the first day of the third month of 1866. It still looks a little like rain, but the wind is still blowing pretty strong from the south. The moon was full this morning about 6 o'clock, and unless we have rain within three or four days, it is likely to be a month before we have any. I never was so anxious to see Spring, as I am now, before in my life. And it is not at all strange, as I expect to visit my father and mother this Spring, after an absence of about nine years. Mr. Erwin came down from his ranch this evening to move his family up to his ranch. He expects to move next Monday. There are several in this place that have commenced fixing up their ranches, to move to

Friday, March, 2nd 1861- No rain yet but it still looks a little like it, just enough to keep us in hope. I closed my school to day in this place; I have been teaching a long time here and was getting heartily tired of it. Dr. West, W^m Clinging and S. Miller got into this place this evening, late, from Neal Station. They are after beef steers. They bring no news of importance, that I have learned.

Saturday, March, 3rd 1861- No rain yet. I learn that S. C. Miller Jr. has moved up to his ranch on the Clear Fork below here, and that T. Le. Stockton will be up as soon as he can find team enough to move with. I have been fixing up my saddle and working at harness making to day, in order to be ready to go to gathering beef steers in a few days. Another birth in this place is Mrs. Thorp.

Sunday, March, 4th 1861- This morning the long looked for rain commenced sprinkling down, at first slowly and gently, as though it was afraid to venture down on a world that looked as dry and parched as this did. But it soon gave us a very nice shower, though not the tenth part of what we need. We are disappointed about preaching once more; the Parson has not come, as he expected to, and I learn from A. Swallow and Mart. Hoover, who came up to day from below, that the cause of the Parson's not coming is, that he could not leave his son Columbus Slaughter, who has been pretty badly shot, accidentally.

Among those that have been disappointed about preaching, was, Mr. Harris and Mr. Gundersburg from Hubbard's creek, who came over yesterday and went back in the rain to day. Also the widow Sloan

and Edna Selman who came up yesterday evening and are here yet.

Monday, March 5th 1861 - We had another little shower of rain last night, but still not half enough. Dr. West, W. Clinging, - Miller, Mart Hoover and a black man that Mart brought up with him, all started from here this morning for Hubbards creek.

Tuesday, March 6th 1861 - It remained cloudy untill this evening, when it cleared off and looked like the rain was done for a while. The old lady Shown and her crowd left here this evening.

Wednesday, March 7th 1861 - It still looks like we might have some more rain, and it would be very acceptable. I have commenced making necking sticks and necking keys to neck to gather about fifty or sixty steers to drive.

Thursday, March 8th 1861 - Still threatening to rain.

Friday, March 9th 1861 - We had a little rain today, and it looks this evening like we might have a great deal more to night. Wm. S. Hoover is taking down his goods and boxing them up, he has not got many left. I finished my necking sticks this evening.

Saturday, March 10th 1861 - We had a very nice rain last night, but to day has been clear and windy.

W. S. Hoover and myself expect to start over to the beef herd on Hubbards creek tomorrow morning.

Tuesday, Aug 20th 1861 - I have neglected my journal a long time, caused mostly from a change in my business, which required my absence from home a great deal of the time. But I will now try to

record a few of the principal incidents that have happened up to this date. W^m Hoover and myself, as I wrote on the 10th of March last, went to Hubbard's creek on the 11th to collect beef steers, but we were compelled to quit the business as it was too early. Graz was not good enough. After being absent about ten days we returned to Fort Davis.

On the 31st of March 1866 myself and B. W. Reynolds started on a move to the Stone Ranch where we expected to move our stock to this summer. The Stone Ranch is about four miles above Camp Casper on the Blue Fork. On the 1st of Apr. we arrived at our new home, where we soon had things arranged to our liking. We found buffalo very numerous around our new ranch.

W^m & Mart Hoover commenced driving their stock out here, but becoming disheartened they drove them back in July.

I have made two attempts to get off with a few beef steers to Missouri this summer, but have utterly failed. In the first instance I could not get off as soon I wanted to on account of the graz which was very backward. The second time I was stopped by the sore eyes.

On the 28th of Apr. 1866 I started my wife and her boy down to Weatherford in Parker Co., with her father, for the purpose of getting their miniatures taken. I expected to take them with me to Missouri if I went.

On the 29th of Apr. our ranch was attacked by a party of twelve Indians. The Indians fired at the house a few times with guns, but done no damage. And they in turn were shot at a few times by the two men that were at the ranch - Mr. Blew and Mr. Silbert. It is supposed that the Indians took three head of horses from the ranch, as they have not been seen since the Indians were here.

A short time after we moved out of the Fort there was a great deal of sickness in it. Mrs. Susan Anderson, M. H. Anderson, J. S. George and Nancy J. Frans were all very sick. But they all recovered except J. S. George whose disease proved fatal some time in May.

About the first of June I bought a stock of cattle that has been kept at this ranch for several years, of about four hundred head, of Mr. Gardiner. Brand O.K.

We have been driving our cattle out here with tolerable success, so far.

At this time B. H. Reynolds and his family are on a visit in Parker Co. to some friends and relatives, and I am left here to guard the ranch alone.

Our boy was one year old this morning, and weighs 28 lbs. He can neither walk nor talk yet, though he is a large fine looking child. It is very likely that the severe spell of sickness he had, set him back from walking as soon as he might otherwise have done. He is very fond of the water, and I often take him in a swimming, or give him a cold shower bath.