

Fort Davis Texas Jan 1st 1865

This is the first day of the year 1865. The year is as hurried in the past by old time, and is no more. It has rolled over our heads from the future to the past, and now it is to smother upon all things.

Just one year ago this morning the same air that gave us day and the light, shone upon the same sea and covered the same millions of happy people. This morning the same sun in the sky for the first time in the year 1865. Though it awake only a part of the same people for hundreds have passed away with the last year. As time rolls around it is continually answering us down, one by one, and how impossible it is for us to tell who of us will pass away with the new year. Many of us that are now breathing the breath of life in perfect health, will be overtaken and our graves dug for the last day of this year rolls around. I think it well enough to bear in mind that death will pass over us as a wall, and therefore we should live ourselves through life so we may have no feelings of sorrow when we bid this world a final adieu.

Fort Davis Jan 1st 1865

This is the first day of 1865 and I contemplate keeping a journal this year. If I should live to be old it may appear a great deal of pleasure to read over a journal how I spent my youth when I was twenty-five years of age.

At this time there is and has been a war a raging, raging of years between the United States and the Confederate States of America. The Confederate States were once a free States but seceded from the old government.

I have not seen and do not know any of the people of the frontier of Texas where it seems to be the most and best. And it appears that the people of the frontier are a second stage of the war and encouraged thereof. I have seen for some time now that the people of the frontier are a second stage of the war and encouraged thereof.

For the past year they have been so troublesome, and have come down upon us in such large bodies that a great many of the old settlers have left the frontier and moved to older settled countries where indian depredations are unknown. Those that remain are "fortified". Fort Davis is on the N. E. bank of the Clear Fork Brazos, where Col. Johnson's ranch was before it was burned, about fifteen miles below Camp Cooper. There is about one hundred and twenty persons in the fort, and almost all preparing to move in. There is another fort about twelve miles below down on the Clear Fork, but not so large as Fort Davis. Fort Davis is laid off into lots which are seventy five feet square. The fort is three hundred feet by three hundred and twenty five feet, which makes sixteen lots of the above dimensions with an alley twenty five feet wide running through the center of the fort from E. to W. It is the intention to build two block houses, one on each of two opposite corners. This fort was commenced about the 20th of October last, and there is now over twenty good houses finished in the fort. I say good for they are very good of the kind. They are picket houses covered with dirt, and the cracks stoped with dirt. They are a very quick house built and very comfortable so far as warmth is concerned, but not very nice, as you may suppose.

Now I will take down a few incidents of the day. This morning about one O'clock, a child of John Kuograde died which is the case of mortality in this fort. The child was about twelve months old, and exposure was likely the cause of its death. A guard was selected about three or four hundred yards from under the side of a hill in a beautiful place where the child's body was buried a little. A very respectable crowd of people, mostly men, followed the corpse to the grave and attended the funeral. It was the first day of 1865, which is a very busy day for the dead. If the old men

says "they way the first day is spent so will the whole year be." I shall be employed in rather an unacceptable business. But I have no fear of it, as I have no faith in superstitions or notions whatever. The wind has been blowing very cool from the south to day, as there has been a very bad spell of weather lately.

Fort Davis Jan. 20th 1865

This day will very likely be long remembered by a certain young lady in this fort. It appears from the result of things, that she had been behaving very disgracefully, for about 10 O'clock A.M. she gave birth to a child, but fortunately for the child it was dead.

Returning from the woods about noon, where I had been cutting timber, I was called upon to assist in burying the dead child, which looks as though there might be some truth in the old adage that I spoke of yesterday. But however I have no more faith in it yet, for there very often strange things happen in nature, which are sometimes hard to account for.

The young lady which I speak of is said to be of a very respectable family, but has been living with one of her married sisters for some time.

The man that will use every means in his power to win the affection and the confidence of a young girl, and then when he has her so far under his control, she having put confidence in him, that she will do almost anything to please him, to rob her of her virtue destroy her character and then leave her in the wretched condition she has reduced her to, is, in my opinion guilty of the most heinous, blackest crime that man can commit.

Fort Davis Jan. 20th 1865

I have made a bad commencement with my journal. I have neglected to write any for nearly three weeks, and have kept account of only two days the first and second of this month. But I have pretty fair reasons for my neglect. It is that I have been pushed

in work upon my house, but from this on I promise my journal that I will notice it more closely.

I have one room of my house floored and a fire-place to it, but I get along very slow with my work as I get but little help. It has been customary in this place among the gang folks to dedicate the houses as they are finished by having a dance in them; and as I have one floor laid, they gave it a tryal to night, in the way of a good dancing party. The house was very well crowded with a great number of participants and a greater number of spectators.

An incident occurred on the night of the ninth, which is worthy of my notice here. About 8 o'clock P.M. two men rode up to the house in which I was sitting and halloed, I went to the door, but as it was very dark I could not tell who they were. I asked them to get down, they then spoke again and I knew their voices. It was Benson, Jackson and Travis who had left this country with a drove of beef steers about three months ago for Mexico, and were expecting to be back in six weeks from the time they started. You may imagine my surprise for we had heard that they had been put into the Confederation. They left before the last grand indian raid and therefore knew nothing of the people "feting up" until they heard of it in Chippewas. I showed them where their families were, as they had never been in Fort Davis before.

Fort Davis Jan. 21st / 65

Saturday. Having one room of my house nearly closed I moved into it to day. My wife was very anxious to move home to herself, but no more so than I was. Although we have been married more than two years, we have not kept house more than three or four weeks; we have lived with her father and mother most of the time.

I left my father when I was seventeen years old, and from that time until I was twenty-three, at which time I married, I was a rover and had no home. Since I have been married I have always wished for a home of my own.

But not untill now have I had one, and now I do not know what day I shall be ordered off into the Confederate service, like thousands of others,

There appears to be a very appropriate place to say something in regard to the service we are in and why we are not in the service of the Confederate States. We that is the people of the frontier counties of Texas are in the State service of the State of Texas. In all other parts of the Confederate States every able bodied man between the ages of seventeen and fifty are in the Confederate service. But in these frontier counties where it is considered dangerous to leave women and children without some protection the government has exempt all persons from conscription untill in the Spring of '64 the State government took all between the ages of eighteen and forty-five into the State service. The law regulating us, requires us to scout one fourth of our time and the remainder of the time we are allowed to stay at home and attend to our own affairs, unless in cases of emergency; then we are not to be kept away from our homes more than two months at a time, unless in fighting an Indian enemy.

Fort Davis Jan. 22nd 1865

Sunday. As nothing worthy of notice happened today, it would not be necessary to state any account of it in my journal, unless it is that I may know in the future, that nothing of importance did happen in Fort Davis on the 22nd of Jan. '65.

A very cold norther blew all day, and made a good fire quite attractive, so much so that I could not get far from mine during the day.

Fort Davis Jan 23rd 1865

Monday. This has been about as cold a day as we have had this winter, though this evening it was somewhat pleasanter. Nothing occurred worth notice.

Fort Davis Jan. 24th 1865

Tuesday. This has been another day in which nothing of interest to place in this part.

Times are very peaceable in this part of the Territory in regard to what they are in some parts. The Indians are the cause of nearly all of our troubles. Simply to give an idea of indian troubles on this frontier I will write what happened a short time since. About four weeks ago a scout found a fire a very large and of indians had been camped but a very short time before, upon the Chis Park some 5 or 60 miles above here. As soon as the news came to the frontier the cavalry, some of the frontier militia and a part of the 9th Cavalry Regiment, which were C. C. troops, got together and went to the place. They found the Indians had camped on the edge of a low creek where they found the Indians were camped. As soon as the camp was found, the officers laid their plans of attack and made a charge, but it appears that the Indians were not disposed to fight and would not shoot until they were forced to by being fired upon by the whites. They fought bravely, at all events they whiped the whites so that they left their dead upon the ground and retired in "double quick". The Indians left about the top of the white mountains there killed and some were taken as a hundred missing. Upon the whole it was rather a bad fight, and perhaps if the commander had not been so hasty he might have prevented a fight at all, as there are no Indians on this side of the river with the C. C. and it appears as if some of these Indians did not wish to fight, but were forced to by being badly defeated their enemies.

Fort Davis Jan. 25th / 65

Wednesday. It appears that the troubles of this war and the hard times caused by it, do not prevent the young folks from loving, wooing, winning and marrying the same as before this war was thought of, when all this country was in peace, prosperity and happiness. Such appears to have been ^{this} case in this fort, for about 9 o'clock ^{a.m.} to day old man McClinton gave the whole fort, that is all the people of the fort, an invitation to eat a wedding dinner at his residence this evening and witness the marriage rite solemnized between J. A. Browning and Angeline McClinton. Late in the evening, all things being ready, the ^{people} began to be very impatient for the arrival of the bridegroom, and about dark he did arrive with an officer to tie the conjugal knot. After the ceremony, which was performed in the open air where all could get a peep, was executed we were introduced into a supper which was far superior to what my worst sanguine expectations looked for. It was a very good supper for this country at such hard times.

Supper being over those that participated in shaking the fan tactical foot were invited into the ball room where they commenced a dance that lasted until the break of day.

About mid night the bridegroom and his bride retired to their nuptial couch for the first time, with many good wishes from the crowd that this lives might be as happy as fruitfull.

A few foriners from the lower fort; S. E. Miller, Lieut. Willits, R. Stockton, M. Stockton, J. S. Stick and Miss Lucinda Lham came up to the wedding.

Fort Davis Jan. 26th / 65

Thursday. This morning I noticed the late bride Mrs Angeline Browning giving the ladies a call, she did not appear to be much embarrassed at her new name. The gentlemen from the lower fort stayed with us until after dinner and then took leave for home. They boasted a great deal on our fort and our good houses &c.

Fort Davis Jan. 27th / 65

Friday.

I was born and lived until I was sixteen in the state of Connecticut where ice and snow was very common in the winter season and where boys amused themselves by sleighing, sliding down hill on sledges, and skating. And as the river was frozen over hard enough to bare up a man on night, I concluded to have some sport, such as I was accustomed to in my boyhood days. I got me a pair of skates, went to the ice and tried them, but I found I was not as good on them as I was ten years ago this winter, which was the last time I had had a pair of skates on until to day. However I done very well as I got no bones broken or seriously injured any other way. My sport did not last long, as the weather is getting warmer and the ice melted fast.

Fort Davis is still improving; the frame of another large house was raised this evening by Sargt. Jamin and a smoke-house by Capt. Frano.

Fort Davis Jan 28th / 65

Saturday.

I spent this day in the woods cutting timber for a meat and lumber house. Late this evening Sargt. Jamin came in from Decatur where he had been on exped. He brings news of a glorious victory won by the Confederate army at Richmond.

Fort Davis Jan 29th / 65

Sunday.

This day will be remembered as being the day on which the Sunday School in Fort Davis was commenced. The men, women and children were all invited to meet at the residence of J. M. Frano at three o'clock A.M. to organize a Sunday school. In the first place a chapter in the Bible was read by old father Clark, which was very appropriate for the occasion.

Fort Davis Jan. 30th / 65

Monday.

This has been a very damp day, and looked very much like rain. This country, as a general thing is very dry, but there has been a great deal of snow and rain this winter.

Fort Davis Jan. 31st / 65.

Tuesday. One twelfth of the year 1865 is now past as this is the last day of January. Eleven months more and the whole year will have rolled over our heads. How swiftly time flies. It appears to fly faster and faster the longer we live. A term of three months at school when I was a boy, appeared as long as the whole twelve months of the year, does now.

The long looked for crowd that left here some time before Christmas to go for headstiff, returned this evening.

They came in a very good time, as there was not many ^{rations} ~~stockings~~ of flour or meal left in the fort when they drove in.

Fort Davis Feb. 1st / 65

Wednesday. A meeting of the citizens of this place was called to day about nine o'clock this morning to come to some understanding about fortifying this place. It was decided by the majority that it should be strongly picketed in, with bastions or block houses at each corner. Whenever this fort is completed I will give a full description of "Fort Davis."

Fort Davis Feb. 2nd / 65

Thursday. This has been a very pleasant day and had a great deal the appearance of spring.

Capt. Curtis arrived in this place, with an escort of three men, to day about 10 O'clock A.M. He brings no intelligence of importance except that we are to go to regular scouting again, which will interfere with our calculations in regard to fortifying this place very much. But the Capt. said he would try his influence with Gen. Throckmorton and see if he could get us released from scouting untill we get through with our work. I think that it is very necessary that the people of this frontier should fort up, and fortify strongly. For it is not the opinion of a few, but of every one in

this whole country, that the indians and Kansas Jay-hawkers will come down upon us in the Spring in numbers heretofore unknown, and make an attempt to break up this frontier. It is true that they can do us a great deal of harm in the way of driving off our stock which I do not see any possible chance to prevent, but if we will work upon our forts, perhaps we can make them safe enough to save our scalps which is dearer to most men than all their property.

Fort Davis 3rd / 65

Friday.

This has been a very beautiful day, indeed and very warm for this time of the year.

Nothing scarcely, worth notice transpired in "Fort Davis" to day. All things go on smoothly, and nearly every man in the place is at work on improvements such as building houses &c.

Fort Davis Feb. 4th / 65

Saturday.

There has been a great change in the weather since yesterday. Yesterday was extremely pleasant, to day has been extremely cold and disagreeable, falling sleet and snow. Very sudden changes are quite common in Texas. A great many in this fort, myself with the rest, have orders to start on a scout to-morrow, but from the appearance of the weather now, I do not think we will get off.

Fort Davis Feb. 5th / 65

Sunday.

It is still colder and more disagreeable than yesterday was if possible. It has been so cold that Lieut. Maubling, the commanding officer of the scout that was to start on to-day, has not arrived at this place, but he has not disappointed anyone here. Sabbath school was held again, to day.

About two o'clock this evening, Mr. H. Anderson came into this fort. He has been gone two months to the lower counties after bread stuff, and staid his time three or four weeks.

Fort Davis Texas Feb. 7th / 65

Monday. The weather has been some warmer to-day, or not as cold, perhaps I should ^{have} said.

The scout did not get started to-day. The snow melted enough to make good snow-balling and the young folks of this place participated in the amusement some this evening, which is uncommon sport in Texas.

The news has come in here, that eleven chiefs of the Comanche tribes have come into Fort Arbuckle to make a treaty with Texas, and that Col. Bowen has gone to meet them. And also, that we can get the prisoners back that they took from us on Elm creek last fall, at the rate of one pony per head for them.

Fort Davis Feb. 7th / 65

Tuesday. It has been some pleasant to-day than it was yesterday but the snow has melted but very little to-day. Most of the men in this place that belong to the scout that was to start out last Sunday, have been ready and waiting for the commanding officer, T. F. Maudling, but he has not yet made his appearance.

Fort Davis, Feb. 8th / 65

Wednesday. A great deal of the snow yet remains it did not melt very much to-day. The scout has not got off yet. Capt. W. M. Curtis and J. B. Matthews gave us a call to-day. They say that there is some talk of the lower fort breaking up.

Fort Davis, Feb. 9th / 65

Thursday. The weather is getting some warmer but the snow remains on the ground very well. Nothing of interest happened to-day for me to write about. It is a very awkward feeling, when any one wishes to write and cannot think of anything to write. Sometimes such is the case with me, nothing that suits me to write and every thing that is unfit to write comes in my mind.

Fort Davis Feb. 10th / 65

Friday.

The scout had almost concluded that Lieut. Maudslayi was not coming at all, but this evening a little before sunset he rode into the fort. He called the roll of his scout, and said that we would start from here to-morrow morning.

He bring no news of importance except: they have commenced fortifying at Linch house.

The weather has been very pleasant to day.

Fort Davis Feb. 11th / 65

Saturday.

The scout under T. F. Maudslayi left this place after dinner. They numbered eleven, but beside the scout there were several men and boys with two wagons going out to kill buffaloes. We struck camp No. 1 on a small branch about five miles from here on the road from this place to the upper agency. After eating supper and spinning a few camp yarns we crawled into our camping blankets which were spread upon the cold and wet ground and no other canopy over us except a damp cloudy sky.

Feb. 12th / 65

Sunday.

After breakfast we took up the line of march for the upper country. On our way between our camp and the agency, the boys caught two buffaloes with some dogs that were along. Corp. McCharty killed one with his knife while the dogs held it. We stopped and ate dinner on the south side of the Blue Fork opposite the agency.

Here there was some difference of opinion expressed in which way we should go from here. But the majority finally decided that we should go up Clear Fork past Camp Cooper. We struck camp No. 2 on ranger creek a little below where the old californian trail crosses. There are plenty of buffaloes here and our party killed four or five soon after striking camp. About 8 o'clock in the night we were surprised to hear some one coming at a short distance. They rode up to our camp and ^{were} requested to camp with us. It was

John Hilton, John B. Dawson, Wm. Hilton, J. H. McKelvey and
Mr. - Beldon who had trailed us from Fort Davis.

Monday.

Feb. 13th / 65

This morning, the scout was disbanded, and
Mr. Anderson, J. B. Brownfield, J. K. Jackson and Mr. S. Gannery
started back home. The rest of our crowd went buffalo
hunting. J. H. Wheeler and myself hunted together. We saw
a great many buffaloes but we had very bad luck as John
Dawson and J. F. Moulding had gotten in to the windward of
us and run them off consequently we got no birds. We
retained to camp about sundown and found that old man
McCarthy and Marion McCarthy had had the same luck that
Wheeler and myself had. All the rest got more or less, Taylor
and John killed ten buffaloes and skinned eight of them.
Musgroves charged upon an old buffalo that was down
and so fear that it could not get up and killed it by
stabing it and knocking it in the head with rocks.
Musgroves appeared to be very proud of his buffalo robe, but
the boys could very easily plague him about his buffalo fight.

Feb. 14th / 65

Tuesday.

We moved camp this morning to the
california crossing on Saint creek. Wheeler and myself
tried our luck at buffalo hunting again but as it
was not much better than it was yesterday, we quit it
and went to camp. After dinner we gathered a few pecans
and agreed to start home in the morning. McCarthy
and a few others left us this morning, with his wagon
so we have but one wagon left.

Fort Davis Feb. 15th / 65.

Wednesday.

This morning Wheeler and myself
gathered a few more pecans and after dinner started for home.
It being about twenty miles to Fort Davis it took us till
about 8 o'clock in the night to reach home.

Feb. 16th / 65

Thursday.

After dinner to day, myself and J. B. McInnis and S. T. Reynolds started down to Ft. Clark to sign the Pay Roll of our company, according to order given by Capt. J. W. Curtis. We staid to stay all night at ranch del Stockton where they have some hay for horse feed. We found J. Willet, R. Stockton R. D. Miller and the Stockton buying backwater hall at the ranch. From every appearance they were not great horse keepers by any means, but we concluded to spend the night with them for the sake of getting some feed for our horses, and their company, down to the fort in the morning.

Fort Davis, Feb. 17th / 65

Friday.

Early this morning, we all started down to Fort Clark. There had been some improvement made in Fort Clark since I was there last, but yet it does not come up with Fort Davis. It is scattered up and down the bank of the river for two hundred yards and badly arranged for defense. All the people of Fort Clark appear to be badly dissatisfied and I think they will leave there at the ringing of gong. After getting through with our business we started home where we arrived soon after sun set.

Fort, Davis, Feb. 18th / 65

Saturday

A few candidates for county office came to this place electioneering to day. J. Willet for county clerk, W. R. Stigsen for assessor and collector and John Selman for Sheriff. The election is to be held on the first Monday in March, 65. J. E. Jackson of this place announced himself a candidate for the office of Chief Justice.

Fort Davis, Feb. 19th / 65

Sunday

Same time since a difficulty arose between W. H. Clark and McAnderson, which came very near being a serious affair, and all about the killing of a dog. The people of this place interposed and thought they had the matter satisfactorily settled but this morning

it broke out afresh. It appears that some one shot one of Mr. Anderson's dogs last night and ^{the morning} without making any arrangements he took his shot gun, walked down to Clark's, and Sunday as it was, shot one of Clark's dogs.

Sunday school was held at Mr. Grand House at the usual time by Mr. Jackson.

Mr. John Skitter, Mr. Seldon and Wm. Vinton passed by here with a drove of fine beef steers this evening, for the lower country.

Fort Davis, Feb. 20th / 65

Monday.

This place is still improving. There was one house raised to day by Wm. Sutherland, and eight or ten hands commenced on the school house which they intend to finish this week, ready for a school next week. This fort is still progressing and the people of it are in a good spirits as could be expected, but the lower fort is on the decline and bids fair to burst up in the spring. There has been a very hard wind blowing from the south to day. Very hard winds are common in this country about this time of the year. In the latter part of the day, it commenced getting cloudy, about dark it looked very much like rain and by break time it commenced raining very hard and rained a very good shower.

Fort Davis, Feb. 21st / 65

Tuesday

Each man's share of picketing was staked off this morning, it is 44^{1/2} feet. We have nearly enough timber hauled for the school house and expect to raise it to morrow. Capt. J. W. Curtis' scout passed through here today. They had a wagon with them and intend to go up on Saint creek and kill buffaloes.

Fort Davis, Feb. 22nd / 65

Wednesday.

About ten of us commenced cutting our picket for the fort today. Another candidate for the office of county clerk came into the fort this

evening electioneering. — George Schoolcraft of Picket
Village, He belongs to the Confederate army and is at home
on furlow. It has been spring like for several
days, so much so that the green grass is making its appear-
ance very fast. There is great indications of an
early spring and a seasonable summer.

Fort Davis, Feb. 25th / 65

Thursday.

I have commenced cutting
pickets for the fort and this morning I went out
to my work but about 12 o'clock it commenced sprinkling
rain so that I quit work and went to the house.

I learned to day that W. L. Hobbs and N. Boggs
from Fort Hubbard came into this place late last
night. They came over to borrow some bread stuff
I understand. W. L. Hobbs is a candidate for the
office of Assessor and collector.

Fort Davis, Feb. 24th / 65

Friday.

This has been a very rainy day
and it thundered and lightened a great deal. This bad
weather has stoped the improvements in this place for
a short time. The school house will not be finished
this week as the people expected it would.

Fort Davis, Feb. 25th / 65

Saturday.

It has not rained any to day
but it is getting considerable colder. There was but
very little done in this place to day.

Fort Davis, Feb. 26th / 65

Sunday.

This has been a cool & cloudy day.
Sunday school was held at Mr. Farris residence as usual.

Fort Davis, Feb. 27th / 65

Monday.

The school house was covered to day.
A part of the scout that left here last Tuesday returned
this evening. They bring no news of any Indians and
say they could find no buffalo. It has been some
flesher to day, and the sun shone out a part of the day.

Fort Davis, Feb. 28th 1865

Tuesday.

I am very tired to night as I have been hard at work on the school house all day.

John Selman came up from the lower fort this evening and brings the news that we are released from service until further orders. He also brought me a note ^{which was} from Gen Throckmorton's head quarters acknowledging the receipt of my map of Fort Davis.

Fort Davis March 1st 1865

Wednesday.

The people of this fort worked upon the school house today and got it nearly ready for the party they expect to have in it to-morrow night. J. L. Erwin drilled the soldiers of this place this evening so that they might be in practice for to-morrow's exhibition.

Fort Davis March 2nd 1865

Thursday.

Invitations have went abroad to the people of the surrounding country to attend a public dinner and the presentation and hoisting of a flag in fort Davis. A few gentlemen and ladies from the lower fort and the two Messrs Thoburns from Fort Hubbard were all the visitors we had. About 12 O'clock M. the soldiers of Fort Davis mustered under J. L. Erwin who was Officer of the day. About 12 1/2 O'clock P.M. while the company was in line and under arms Miss Almira Sutherland accompanied with a train of ladies and the musical band, marched up in front of the line and presented the soldiers of this place with a flag. J. (Sen S. Newcomb) had been the person selected to receive it from her hands, so after receiving it and returning her thanks in the name of the people of this place, I marched back to the head of the line. We then marched through all the streets in the fort in the following order. 1st the flag bearer, 2nd the company of soldiers, 3rd the musical band, 4th

a company of ladies. After marching through all the Fort we halted facing the flag staff. John stepped to the flag staff, attached the flag to the flag line and sent it to top mast in a trice, amidst three loud and long cheers for Fort Davis. The soldiers then fired eleven salutes and were then dismissed. In firing the salutes McDuffie got slightly wounded by the recoil of the Bryant's gun bursting. About two o'clock P.M. we partook of a very nice dinner. At early candle light the young folks opened the dance in the schoolhouse which they kept up all night. The school house answers very well for a ball room in size, it being 16 x 30 feet, but not very well in another respect as it is floored with rock.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 3rd / 65

Friday. Times have been very dull in part the day. Most of the young folks danced all night and all the rest set up very late. Our visitors from the lower fort left us this morning.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 4th / 65

Saturday. After waiting untill late in the evening for John Selman's horse, John myself, and J. T. Reynolds started across to Fort Hubbard. We had not gotten more than two miles from the fort when John Selman's horse got sick or gave out. We stopped and bleed him and then after resting a while we lead our horses untill dark and then struck camp.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 5th / 65

Sunday. We awoke at day break, ate our breakfast, hauled up our horses and started for Fort Hubbard. But we did not get but five or six miles before John's horse gave out again. Seeing that it would be very late when we could get the horse to the Fort, I concluded to take the horse and come back and let John leave my horse and go on. I got back to

Fort Davis about two O'clock P.M. by walking all the way. About sunset two men, E. Leedright and T. Johnson came into the fort from Edin creek. They bring the news that there is an armistice agreed upon by the North and South.

Fort Davis Texas, March 6th 65

Monday.

According to order from Chief Justice Miller there was an election held in this county today to elect county officers. There has been an election precinct established at this place so we had an election here. Though it was a very still and questionable one as there was no whiskey to be had.

Fort Davis, March 7th 65

Tuesday.

This has been a very pleasant day. Several of the men of this place went out to cut their pickets for the fort today. Late this evening the wagon that left this place last Friday to go to bedwellers salt works for salt for this fort, returned. Last night Mr. H. Anderson brought in three strange horses that he had found, supposed to have been dropped by the Indians. One had on a bridle and a harness.

Fort Davis, March 8th 65

Wednesday.

I finished cutting my pickets for the fortification, this evening. John Selman has some of his pickets hauled for his mother's house.

Fort Davis March 9th 65

Thursday.

This has been a very cold day. Very little done in this place today in the way of improvement.

Fort Davis March 10th 65

Friday.

This has been quite a pleasant day, and work has gone on brisk in this place. Supt. Lewin finished setting up his fort pickets this evening. T. E. Jackson and myself made doors and window shutters for the school house.

Port Davis, Texas, March 11th/65

Saturday,

I have felt very little like work to day and what little I done was upon the school house.

This evening a party of combraders that left here yesterday came in. And they had a squab in their hand that had been very lately shot by some indians. The squab was sticking in its side. This morning J. R.

Browning and his lady left here on a visit to some of the people in the lower part.

Port Davis, Texas, March 12th/65

Sunday

Indian excitement has been very high in this fort to day. About 7 o'clock this morning, Mr. McHenry was out from the fort about three miles when he came up with a large body of indians. There was only four or five that had horses and they gave him a pretty close race but he made it into the fort safe and sound excepting, he was a little scared.

The news spread over the fort in an instant and thus all was in confusion. Some women were running about gathering up their children. Some were in fearful despair about husbands and sons that were out steer hunting, horse hunting &c. Others were so badly frightened that they ran from place to place like they had lost all reason. There happened to be six or seven horses in the fort and they were soon saddled, mounted and rode off in host after the indians. Soon after some of the horse hunters came in with seven or eight horses and they were saddled and went to go and recruit the first that went out. In the evening they all returned without an indian fight but they saw a great deal of indian sign, two horses that they had killed and one or two that they had wounded which they drove in. All that were out and wiping came in this evening so there was no one killed or wounded from this place, but they have gotten a few horses that belong here, have many

we do not know yet. By J. A. Banning who returned from the lower fort to day, we learn that two Teal boys captured three head of horses from six indians a few days ago on Buffords creek. I think this will stir some in this place up to their picketings.

Fort Davis March 13th / 66

Monday. This day I commenced a school in this place for a term of fourteen weeks. I have only nineteen scholars at present and most of them very wild and wild unacquainted with school discipline. I understand there is a few gentlemen from the lower fort in this place to night though I have not seen them myself.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 14th / 66

Tuesday.

There was a house raised in this place to day for Mrs. Selman by her son John who is at home from the army on furlough. J. S. Steel, another citizen of the lower fort has come up to build him a house in this place. This place still improves, regardless of war and hard times.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 15th / 66

Wednesday.

This has been a very cold day. A very cold and damp weather has been blowing all day, therefore there has been but very little done to day.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 16th / 66

Thursday.

This has been a very pleasant day. Nothing of interest happened every body at work to day. I forgot to write for yesterday about an incident that is truly worth notice. Some time last Spring or Summer, ^{a man} who lived above here about twenty miles at what is called the stone ranch, by the name of Gardiner, was arrested and taken off below. Soon after a report came up here that he was hung, and as we in this country knew any better until yesterday about 4 o'clock A.M. when he rode up to the surprise

of all. This story is that he has been kept in prison most of the time since he left here at Thouston. This partner, Knot, is supposed to have died in Mexico though he may make his appearance some day.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 17th / 65

Friday. Things have went on as usual today in this place. Nothing worthy of record in my limited journal transpired in Fort Davis today.

Fort Davis, March 18th / 65

Saturday. The weather is still pleasant with some signs of rain. A large house was raised today for old man Anderson from Fort Belknap. Our fort is still improving, reinforcements are now and then coming in. We are now much stronger than any other fort in this part of the frontier.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 19th / 65

Sunday. Another sabbath has passed over our heads, and nothing has happened upon it to distinguish it from the many that have preceded it in my time. Weather warm with some prospects of rain this evening.

Fort Davis, March 20th / 65

Monday. This has been a very windy day and very dusty.

Fort Davis, March 21st / 65

Tuesday. Today has been very different from yesterday, it has been very pleasant and spring like. The trees along the river are leaving their leaves, and the grass in the valley is getting green.

Fort Davis, March 22nd / 65

Wednesday. This has been another pleasant day. Late this evening Charles Weston returned to this place after an absence of two or three months. John Weston also came up with him from Palo Verde. They say that a man from the eastern part of this State by the name of Scott with forty-five hands is up in this

country, gathering beef steers, and giving the people nothing in return except a quarter maverick receipt. The people of this country have been badly treated at several different times in a manner similar to the above or worse. As the people of the frontier have not been taken into the Confederate Service, the people of other parts of the country appear to think that they can come up here with their threats to report the frontier man to the Confederate Service and force him in to any measure they please. The frontier men are not quite as easily excited now as they were at first, as they have lost some of their beef steers which is their only dependance; the only product of this country.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 23rd / 65

Thursday. Another pleasant day. Our fort was reinforced this morning by the additional strength of one family (the widowed Selmons family). More are expected soon; horses going up for them.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 24th / 65

Friday. Another pleasant day, in which nothing of interest transpired in this place. T. E. Jackson and Marion McHenry left here this evening with two large teams for the lower country for bread stuff. With this evening ended the second week of my school, I have twenty three scholars at present with the promise of more soon.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 25th / 65

Saturday. As I am confined in the school room five days in the week, I concluded to employ myself to day in hauling rock for another chimney to my house, but as it commenced raining about 12 O'clock A.M. I did not get quite enough hauled.

Fort Davis, Texas, March 26th / 65

Sunday. This has been quite a rainy and wet day. I am glad to see the rain, for if the weather will be warm we will soon have plenty of grass. The grass has already taken a very good start.

Fort Davis, March 27th, 1865
Serge J. Reynolds started before 10 AM.
Times and weather both dull.

Monday.

Tuesday 28th This has been another rainy day. We had several very good showers to day.

Wednesday 29th March /65:- A pretty cold norther for this time of the year has been blowing all day. This evening Mr. Irwin and Mr. Francis and others came in from a cow-hunt that they had taken up the river and had a nice drove of cows and calves.

Thursday 30th March /65:- A calm pleasant day.

Friday, 31st March /65:- With to day ends one fourth of the year 1865. Morning very pleasant but in the evening it looked very much like rain.

Saturday, 1st April /65:- This is the first day of the second Spring month. And very different from what I expected last night; it is a very pleasant day.

The earth is getting quite green, the trees are putting forth their leaves, and the prairie flowers are just making their appearance.

Sunday 2nd Apl. /65:- Early this morning it threatened to rain but did nothing but sprinkle a little. About ten O'clock it cleared off and there rose a heavy wind from the S.

Monday 3rd Apl. /65:- A pleasant day. I am improving what time I have to spare from school in visiting my wife & husband.

Tuesday, 4th Apl. /65:- John W. Fulkerson returned from Fort Belknap this evening. He says he left the wagons that are moving Mr. Anderson to the place, on Rich Creek. No news.

Wednesday, 5th Apl. /65:- This morning the widow Sherman escorted by R. D. Miller and J. B. Gasperine came up to her residence in this place. She says she found it better fixed than she expected. Linda has been up here keeping her 2 men.

Fort Davis, March 27th /65
George S. Reynolds started this morning.
Times and weather both dull.

Monday.

Tuesday, 28th This has been another rainy day. We had several very good showers to day.

Wednesday 29th March /65; A pretty cold north wind for this time of the year has been blowing all day. This evening Mr. Irwin and Mr. Evans and others came in from a cow hunt that they had taken up this river and had a nice drove of cows and calves.

Thursday 30th March /65; A calm pleasant day.

Friday, 31st March /65; With to day ends one fourth of the year 1865. Morning very pleasant but in the evening it looked very much like rain.

Saturday, 1st April /65; This is the first day of the second Spring month. And very different from what I expected last night; it is a very pleasant day.

The earth is getting quite green, the trees are putting forth their leaves, and the prairie flowers are fast making their appearance.

Sunday 2nd Apr. /65; Early this morning it threatened to rain but did nothing but sprinkle a little. About ten o'clock it cleared off and there rose a heavy wind from the S.

Monday, 3rd Apr. /65; A pleasant day. I am improving what time I have to spare from school in building my wife a cupboard.

Tuesday, 4th Apr. /65; John W. Sullivan returned from Fort Sulphur this evening. He says he left the wagons that are moving Mr. Anderson to the place, on Irish Creek. No more.

Wednesday, 5th Apr. /65; This morning the river Sulphur escorted by Mr. D. Miller and J. B. Gossard came up to her residence in this place. She says she found it better fixed than she expected. Linda has been up here keeping it in 2 weeks.

Thursday, 6th Apr. 1851- This has been rather a nice day. Our fort was strengthened this evening by a party of 10 men.

Friday, 7th Apr. 1851- Nothing of importance to write.

Saturday, 8th Apr. 1851- The sky had the appearance of rain this morning, and the wind was in the east. J. B. Dawson and W. M. Neal came up from the lower fort to day. Through Mr. Dawson I received a letter from Capt. J. H. Curtis to teach school. They bring news that Capt. J. H. Curtis has tendered his resignation. That there will be an election held at this place on the 15th inst. to fill the vacancies that the discharging of Lieut. Maule created.

Sunday, 9th Apr. 1851- Still looked like rain in the morning, but cleared off quite pleasant in the evening. My wife, her mother and father left here to day to go on a visit to the lower fort; they went in company with Dawson and Neal, they expect to return tomorrow. Mr. Neal says he has a school in S. D.

Monday, 10th Apr. 1851- This morning it sprinkled rain a little. My wife and her mother and father returned from the lower fort this evening. A crowd of cow hunters started from this place today to make a hunt on Hubbard's creek.

Tuesday, 11th Apr. 1851- Has been a pleasant day. I collected some from the lower fort.

Wednesday, 12th Apr. 1851- Our Teams left here with our wagons this evening for Sarsant Co. for bread stuff. The people of this country have been very kind to us.

Thursday, 13th Apr. 1851- Spring is very much advanced. The trees are now just green, and the grass is very green in the prairie. The young folks had a dancing party to night in the saloon.

Thursday, 6th Apr. 1851 This has been rather a nice day. Our fort was strengthened this evening by a party of Old men and boys.

Friday, 7th Apr. 1851 Nothing of importance to write.

Saturday, 8th Apr. 1851 The sky had the appearance of rain this morning, and the wind was in the east. J. B. Dawson and W. Veal came up from the lower fort to day. Through Mr. Dawson I received a letter from Capt. J. W. Curtis to teach school. They bring news that Capt. J. W. Curtis has tendered his resignation. That there will be an election held at this place on the 15th inst. to fill the vacancies that the discharging of Lieut. Maule created.

Sunday, 9th Apr. 1851 Still looked like rain in the morning, but cleared off quite pleasant in the evening. My wife, her mother and father left here to day to go on a visit to the lower fort; they went in company with Dawson and Veal, they expect to return to morrow. Mr. Veal says he has a school in S. Fort.

Monday, 10th Apr. 1851 This morning it sprinkled rain a little. My wife and her mother and father returned from the lower fort this evening. A crowd of cow hunters started from this place to day to make a hunt on Thunder Creek.

Tuesday, 11th Apr. 1851 This was a pleasant day. I collected some copper from the lower fort.

Wednesday, 12th Apr. 1851 Mr. Trans left here with his wagons this evening for Sarsant Cr. for bread stuff. The people of this country expect to receive some news in relation to war.

Thursday, 13th Apr. 1851 Spring is very much advanced. The trees are now just green, and the grass is very young in the prairie. The young folks have a dancing party to night in the seminary.

Friday, 14th Apr. 65!— This morning about day break commenced raining by showers, and rained several very good showers. But during the day it cleared up and the evening was quite pleasant and warm. During the evening the crowd of cow hands who left this place a few days ago returned from Kings creek with a large drive of cattle.

Saturday, 15th Apr. 65!— Capt. J. H. Curtis company met here to day and elected a Lieut. John Selman of the C. S. A. who is at home on furlough was elected. He thinks by being elected to a commissioned office in this frontier militia that he may get a transfer. The people did not have much faith in it getting him out of the army, but voted for him to show their willingness to do all they could for him. The principal part of the company was here to day and after the election Capt. Curtis gave them thanks for their kind obedience to his orders and said that he was going to leave the company as he had resigned and had leave of absence for three months.

Sunday, 16th Apr. 65!— This evening Lieut. Willet and Mr. McCarty returned from a trip to the lower counties. J. S. Steel came up to day to finish his house.

A Foster is in this place, he is another old soldier of this frontier who belongs to the C. S. A.

Monday, 17th Apr. 65!— Two men from camp Woodford were in this place this evening. The gunny folks had a ball to night at J. S. Irwin's residence. Beck and Thike Stockton were up to the party.

Tuesday, 18th Apr. 65!— Mr. Evans went back to Kings creek to day and brought in his crippled wagon that he had started to mill with.

Wednesday, 19th Apr. 65!— About 1 O'clock P.M. Beck Stockton came up from the ranch and said that Thike was down at the ranch very sick and they had no medicine. The

got a wagon and team and hauled him up to this place he got here a little after dark. He complains of a severe cramping in his bowels, and joint fever.

Thursday, 20th Apr. 1861- George Reynolds returned from below where he has been after horses, this evening. Blake Barber and Sid Rucker came up with him. George brought four horses up with him, one for himself, one for his father, one for J. F. Sted and one for Red Clark. These were all unbroke ponies.

Friday 21st Apr. 1861- This morning three wagons left here to go after bread-stuff; one was Mr. Francis, one Mr. Jensen and the other was B. H. Reynolds. The weather is pleasant and people have commenced cow husting some. Sid Rucker made a short stop, he left this morning.

Saturday 22nd Apr. 1861- We have had some pretty cold weather lately for this season of the year; there was frost last night and the night before. W. F. Hoover came over from Ft. Hubbard this evening. Math Anderson is keeping some sheep belonging to Mr. Hoover, and I think he is come over to help shear them. I worked on my chimney that I commenced about a month ago.

Sunday 23rd Apr. 1861- This has been a pleasant day. I notice that Miss Mira Sutherland has come home. France Pearline and another gentleman came over from Ft. Belknap with her today. As I am writing I learn that there has been some horses stolen from this place today by Indians.

B. T. Brannon brought some orders from Capt. J. F. Curston, who is the Sen. Capt. of this Battalion, to the commanding officer of Ft. H. Curston, C. S. One was to furnish Capt. Clayton of Pale Pinto with fifteen or twenty men to follow some deserters out about Ft. Chedabawn, but as the orders did not say when nor where to meet Capt. Clayton, the men will wait until he calls for them.

Monday. 24th Apr. 1865:- Has been a pleasant day but nothing of interest took place in this fort.

Tuesday, 25th Apr. 1865:- Times are still prosperous in this place. Mr Steel has his house about completed and probably will move up before long. And Mr Thorp is building a black-smith shop which is very badly needed.

Wednesday. 26th Apr. 1865:- Mr. January and Mr. Sullivan left here about 12 O'clock M. for the lower country. Miss Sutherland went with her father on a visit to some friends in Navarre O^h. Late this evening a very black cloud came down upon us from the N. W. and it was a most dreadful hail storm.

The wind blew from the south until about dark but the cloud came steadily on looking worse and worse as it came. About dark the wind suddenly changed and came from the direction of the cloud and then it was not more than a minute before the storm was upon us. It was a tremendous storm of wind and hail, such as is seldom experienced in this country. The hail stones were not as large as I have seen them but the wind blew with such force and they fell so fast that it broke out all the window glass on the north side of the house, and beat out most of the chimneys and roofing.

The whole surface of the ground was instantly inundated with water and hail and there was but few houses that had no glass in them but what cold water was from an inch to a foot in depth all over them. The storm lasted about three minutes in its furor and then it soon cleared off. As it cleared off we commenced noticing the casualties of the storm, the windows were broken, the play stuf was blown down, a tree that stood by Mr George's house was blown down, an arbor was blown down, and soon after the

Storm had cleared away one of Mr. Anderson's house
caved in, which made a great noise with its dirt
covered roof and large timbers. But fortun-
ately no one was hurt seriously by the storm.

Thursday, Apr. 27th/65:- This morning the people of this
fort were busy in clearing away the effects of the storm.
The school-house floor was covered with mud and was
so wet that I did not teach school today.

Friday Apr. 28th/65:- This has been quite a pleasant
day and very warm this evening. Capt. Wm. Massey
and E. Skard was in this place today. Capt. Massey
says he is going to station his company close to the
fort. This company consists of about 25 white men
and about fifty Tonkaway Indians. These Indians
have their families with them and are fed by the
State government. They are a small and fierce tribe.

Saturday, Apr. 29th/65:- I taught school today
to make up the time lost last Thursday. This
evening four soldiers from Ft. Belknap came into this
place and arrested John Selman for desertion. They
wished to start back to Belknap this evening, but
Lieut. Willet retained him on his own respon-
sibility and searched for his appearance in the morning
in order to ^{see} Selman to have his clothes fixed
up, get his horse and settle his business before
he left. After supper the soldiers rode their horses out to camp.

Sunday, Apr. 30th/65:- This morning early
the four soldiers that arrested John Selman came
in after their prisoner. They found him on hand
and after breakfast they gave him permission to
bid his friends fare-well and took him off.
This arrest is for desertion one or two years ago
and it is hard to tell what punishment they
will put upon him. His election to Lieut'cy in
the militia was not received at head quarters.

About 9 or 10 O'clock A.M. T. E. Jackson returned from the lower countries where he has been after bread stuff. He brought up Tom. Ratliffs family. Mrs Ratliff is a daughter of Henry Anderson of this place. This evening John Bramfield came in to this place with a load of stone coal to trade to the black-smith here. Monday, May 1st / 65th - This has been quite a pleasant day. I noticed several strangers in the fort to day, some of them were from Johnson C^y, and I learn that they brought up the report that Richmond has been taken by the federal army, but I do not put much confidence in it. There was also several men here from Ft. Belknap to day.

Serpt. Travin's scout met here to day, and according to the new orders they will stay in this place, and keep out a horse guard and pickets.

Each company com^d is ordered to establish a camp on any ground for the scouts to remain at until they are ordered by the next scout, and the com^d officer of this company has made this place his camp.

Tuesday, May 2nd / 65th - Our fort must have quite a respectable name abroad, for this evening a load of goods arrived in this place from Waco. A gentleman by the name of Wilson brought them up to exchange for beef steers. Mr Wilson has not shown his goods yet, but the feminine population of this place is all in a fever to see them.

Wednesday, May 3rd / 65th - John Watson and Mr. Wightower passed through this place to day, they have been up above here cow hunting and are talking of moving to old camp-leaver. B. W. Reynolds returned this evening from mill, but did not bring much bread stuff, and people are beginning to see some trouble about bread. But the people of this country can do without bread and yet be in no danger of starving. There is plenty of good beef.

Thursday, May 4th / 65:- This morning Mr. Wilson opened his goods and displayed them to the people. A large crowd of men, women, children, babies and dogs crowded around to witness the display of the first goods offered for sale in Fort Davis. Nearly everyone saw something that he must have, but Mr. Wilson has not sold anything yet as he does not wish to sell unless he can sell all and get a drove of steers that will justify him to drive. His stock of goods consist of a few pieces of home spun cloth, a little tobacco, a few hats, some pins, needles, hooks and eyes, buttons, sewing thread, knives and forks, tea spoons, matches, gun caps, combs, hair pins, pencils &c. &c.

Friday, 5th May / 65:- W. S. Warner the Ap. & Coll. of this county is in this place, and assesses and collects in this place today and tomorrow.

Th. V. Leedbetter and W. M. Crow are in this place to night. We had a very good shower of rain this evening. Saturday, May 6th / 65:- After consulting the people this morning, Mr. Wilson got out a licence to sell goods and went at it. His goods went very fast, especially his cloth and shoes.

Sunday, May 7th / 65:- Nothing of interest to write. There is a little sickness in this place at present. Miss Lucinda Selman is sick with something like the iron ciplas and Mr. Whisterson's oldest son has had the fever quite bad and is not entirely out of danger yet.

Monday, May 8th / 65:- This morning Mr. Wilson brought his goods up to my house as I have more room in proportion to the size of any family than most of the others in this place. T. B. Broomfield started this morning after a doctor for Miss Lucinda Selman, he will have to go to Fort Belknap for one.

Tuesday, May 9th / 65:- T. B. Brownfield got back from Ft. Belknap last night about mid night. He brought some medicine but no doctor. This morning Al Anderson, Charles Hiltson and Jas Jackson returned from Weatherford. This evening the cow hunters that went from this place to Hubbard's creek got back with a fine drove of cattle. J. S. Steel moved into the place this evening and took possession of his new house. The sick in this place are improving slowly.

Wednesday, May 10th / 65:- This has been a very cold day, indeed, more like December than May. It is not quite freezing cold but it is very unpleasant out of doors. Mr. Gray from Kechi is in town this evening.

Thursday, May 11th / 65:- The weather has been somewhat pleasanter to day than it was yesterday, but is pretty cool yet. Sergt. Irwin's scout was relieved by the succeeding scout which is commanded by Sergt. R. D. Miller. He dug at twelve o'clock Mr. Brown resigned his office as ordnance sergeant.

Friday, May 12th / 65:- T. L. Stockton and J. C. Miller was in this place to day. The news that the federals have possession of Richmond is thought to be reliable now. We can never get news in this country until it is very old.

Saturday, May 13th / 65:- The wind has blown very hard from the south to day. And this place is getting very disagreeable on account of dust and loose sand.

Sunday May 14th / 65:- Nothing to write for to day.

Monday, May 15th / 65:- This evening Mr. Travis and Mr. Bryant got back from the lower country where they have been after breadstuffs. Mr. Wilson got off from here to day with a small drove of beef steers; he did not get quite all he had coming to him for his goods. He has promised to be back with another load of goods in about three weeks.

Tuesday, May 16th / 65:-

Wednesday, May 17th / 65:- This has been quite a warm day. I understand that Fort Owl Head is evacuated.

The last family left there yesterday morning. John Watson was in here to day, him and one or two other families have moved up to Camp Cooper.

Thursday, May 18th/65:- Nothing of interest. There is two or three families in this place talking of moving to Camp Cooper.

Friday, May 19th/65:- Another day in which nothing unusual happened in Fort Davis.

Saturday, May 20th/65:- This has been a very warm day, and I went in the river bathing to day for the first time this summer. I went fishing a little while this evening; I caught no fish but caught a splendid duck - ing by accidently sliding off the bank into the water.

Sunday, May 21st/65:- This has been a still warmer day than yesterday was, the warmest that we have had this summer. W. H. Spedbetter and J. E. Delong came over from the Spedbetter salt works this evening.

They bring news of an Indian fight which took place on the Concho near the place where that notorious Indian battle was fought last winter.

This fight took place a few days since between about forty militiamen and twenty five Comanches. The white men succeeded in killing and scalping three indians, but by the time they had accomplished this there had been two white men accidently wounded by their fellow soldiers.

Monday May 22nd/65 Nothing of importance happened in this place to day, though we have heard some very sad news from the other side of the Mississippi. The report has come here that Gen. Lee the Commander in Chief of the C. S. A. has been captured, also that Gen. Johnson has surrendered his army to the enemy. These two armies comprise nearly all the forces on the other (east) side of the Mississippi. And several other

reports just as bad but they may not be correct.

Tuesday, May 23rd / 65:- A large drove of cattle came in this evening from Hubbard's creek. The cow hunters brought over an order for an election to elect a Chief Justice and a District Clerk. E. L. Walker is candidate for Clerk and J. Matthews for Chief Justice, both from the army.

Wednesday, May 24th / 65:- Mr. W. Lee returned from his mill trip, to day he has been gone a long time. John Weatherford, E. L. Walker and W. Lee came into this place late this evening. Nothing new reliable.

Thursday, May 25th / 65:- This morning Capt. Seaborn with four or five other men came over from Ft. Belknap. They say that it is reported that Gen. Shrockmorton was captured while at Cobb for the purpose of making a treaty with the Indians.

Friday, May 26th / 65:- Nothing happened for me to write about, except that it has been very pleasant to day, wind from the north.

Saturday, May 27th / 65:- Has been a very pleasant day.

Sunday, May 28th / 65:- Capt. White's company passed through here to day on their way to Ft. Belknap. They bring the news that peace has been made - that the southern people are subjugated and go back into the old Union. The particulars of our surrender, if there were any conditions in it, we have not heard. The people are greatly excited.

Monday, May 29th / 65:- I have learned to day that the company that passed through here yesterday disbanded this morning where they camped on Kings creek. They all start for their homes after taking such government property as they could get hold of. This is being done by all the soldiers as far as I have heard from them, and is very likely all the way. They will get any pay for their services.

Tuesday, May 30th / 65:- Capt. Kate White and Lieut. W. Millet passed through here to day, they were from Belknap. The people are very anxious to learn the conditions on which the war has been ended. But it is likely to be a long time yet before we hear the state of the particulars.

Wednesday, May 31st / 65:- The idea that we are a subjugated people is hard to get reconciled to. Negro slavery will be abolished without a doubt, and in what way the enormous war debt is to be settled is hard to imagine. But I cannot believe but what the southern people have had an understanding in their surrender, that their property shall not be confiscated. If this is so, that peace is made between the north and south, there will to all probability be war between the U.S. and the French in Mexico very shortly. Bryant came in this evening, sick.

Thursday, June 1st / 65:- This has been a pleasant and quiet day. Sergt. Lynch came into this place this evening with a party of his scout, and brings the news of some indian sign seen about two miles from here.

Friday June 2nd / 65:- No incident to record for today.

Saturday June 3rd / 65:- Another drove of cow hunters came in today. Tom Stockton is in this place today. He brings up some late papers but nothing of interest.

Sunday June 4th / 65:- This has been a pleasant day, and Mr. Horan's wagon got off today also Mr. Bryant and Chardie Wilson with him. Some of the young folks of this place rode out on a fishing excursion this evening. There have been quite a number of fish caught ^{to day} by the people of this place.

Monday, June 5th / 65:- John Selman got back home alive and well today. He met his company below Haze, disbanded and on their way home, so he turned round and came home also. It has been a little more than a month since he was taken off. No fresh news.

Tuesday, June 6th / 65:- This has been a pleasant day. T. Brown field rigged up and started for Fort Belknap this morning. No fresh news today.

Wednesday, June 7th / 65:- The earth was copiously refreshed this morning by a very good shower, which will

liven up the grass very much, and that is all for
we have no farming in this country. Our fort is
going down a little in the way of number of inhabitants.
The families of M. McGarty and J. A. Brownring left here
this morning for Camp Cooper. I notice W. R. St. John
in town this evening, he talks of starting to Missouri this
fall if peace is made to hunt up his kin folks.

Thursday, June 8th / 65:- Nothing of interest happened to
day except we had another fine shower of rain this morning.

Friday, June 9th / 65:- Lieut. J. Willet left this place this
morning for Weatherford, he expected to be gone about 20
days. There has been Indians and indian signs seen
about here for a few days back, but no horses lost yet.

Saturday June 10th / 65:- It sprinkled rain a little
to-day, and I went fishing up the creek but caught nothing.

Sunday June 11th / 65:- Nothing uncommon to-day.

Monday June 12th / 65:- We still know nothing more about
the affairs between the north and south. But it is very
likely there will be no more fighting, and upon what terms
we will be taken back into the Union it is hard to imagine.

Tuesday June 13th / 65:- John Hiltson was in this
place to-day to go on a cow hunt with the people of this place.

Wednesday June 14th / 65:- T. B. Brownfield bid the people
of this place a long farewell this morning and took what
he says is his final adieu. Several persons told him
they should look for him back in about one or two months.
He left here in company with E. E. Christensen who has gone to
the lower country to engage some bread stuff.

Thursday, June 15th / 65:- This evening T. Reattif and John
Anderson rode into this place to the infinite joy of
their friends. They have been soldiers in the C. S. A.
and have now returned after being disbanded as all
the southern army has. The wife and daughter of Phillip
George and old Mr. Henry Lodge sen. came up with them from
Weatherford. They bring us news of importance.

Friday, June 16th / 65:- My term of school of fourteen weeks was out this evening. We had a small examination of the scholars this evening which was attended by several persons of this place and a few strangers who happened to be in the town. J. T. Musgroves returned from below to day; he went off with our merchant Mr. Wilson to bring back a load of goods for him, but as Mr. Wilson failed to get any, he returned without the goods. He brings plenty of fresh news; such as it is. Several drives of cattle were penned here this evening.

Saturday, June 17th / 65:- The south wind has been blowing very hard for two or three days in succession which is very uncommon for this time of the year in this country. A short time after dark the wind that had been blowing very hard from the S. for about three days suddenly changed to the N. and with it came a black cloud of a few severe gusts of wind and a little rain.

Sunday, June 18th / 65:- Flake Barber got in this place to day. He is from Weatherford but does not bring much news. J. C. Clark also got in this evening with a little bread stuff for J. E. Steel. He talks of moving back to this country, very soon.

Monday, June 19th / 65:- Nothing of interest transpired in this place to day, except the moving of Col. T. M. Elbertz and family from this place to Camp Cooper. There was a party of young folks from this place that started this morning to Belknap on a plum hunt. I met Lieut. Jack Williams, Prop. Rathbun and Wm. Demaree in this place this evening. They say the Indians have drove off a drove of about one thousand head of cattle from California creek, above Ft. Belknap.

Tuesday, June 20th / 65:- A party of young folks that have been to the Brazas on a plum hunt, returned this evening; they left here last Saturday. S. E. Miller Jr. and J. H. Gandy passed through this place late this evening.

Wednesday, June 21st / 65:- A large crowd of cow boys left this place to day, some for Lister creek and some for Pecon. Raising cattle is the principal occupation of the people of this country; and gathering and marketing and branding the calves is their principal employment. Agriculture is not followed in this country in consequence of severe drought.

Thursday June 22nd / 65:- The days are about as warm and long as they ever get in this country.

Friday June 23rd / 65:- This evening Ide, Stockton and W. L. Shomer get into this place from below, they some news. They say that it is reported that Jeff Davis and his party had \$12,000,000 with them when they were taken, and that the rebel president and his cabinet are to be shot on the fourth day of July next. They bring several other reports causing the excitement of the times, but they are not reliable.

Saturday June 24th:- This has been quite a warm day and nothing of interest has happened in or about this place.

Sunday June 25th / 65:- It has been cloudy and pleasant to day. A party of young folks took a ride up to Camp Cooper to day; they did not get back untill about dark.

Monday, June 26th / 65:- A warm day, nothing to write.

Tuesday, June 27th / 65:- Now that the war is ended, a great many of the citizens of this country are talking of moving their stock to new range, to Colorado, Concho, San Saba.

Wednesday, June 28th / 65:- The first men to drive beef since the war ended were in here to day; it was Charles Rivers and Mr. Larson. They are offering ten dollars per head. Messrs Franks & Christerson and H. Anderson got in home this evening, they have been below to buy bread stuff.

Thursday, June 29th / 65:- Franks and H. Anderson's wagon got in this evening. They bring up a fine lot of goats, and say that times are getting a little like old fashioned times.

Friday, June 30th / 65:- R. A. Clark, B. W. Reynolds and J. C. Clark left here this morning with their wagons for the lower country; R. A. Clark and Reynolds to get bread stuff.

and of Belknap to move his family back to this country. This country is now and has been since the subjugation of the Confederacy, without law or anything to keep down crime and vice except the virtues and moral principals of the people. It is even strange that we do not hear of more out-lawed acts than we do.

Saturday, July 1st / 65:- The first day of July 1865 finds me here on the frontier of Texas. 25 years ago.

Sunday July 2nd / 65:- This has been a pleasant day. W^m H. Seebetter came over from his salt-works to-day, and T. L. Stockton and R. T. Stockton came in to this place this evening. They bring us news of importance.

Monday, July 3rd / 65:- I commenced teaching school again this morning in this place; I had only fifteen scholars to-day. The people have had a great deal of trouble in getting school books. Late this evening a large crowd of men and women rode into this place from Ft. Belknap. They had been invited to a fourth of July barbecue and party, but the barbecue had fallen through.

Tuesday July 4th / 65:- This is the fourth of July (1865) a day of celebration with the people of the United States. This morning a few more people from Ft. Belknap got into this place; also Wm Willett with a load of goods for sale. He opened his goods for sale in the school-house as there was no school to-day, and made very good sales. There are several persons trying to buy up beef steers in this country at this time; I noticed two in town this evening from Dallas county. I think there has been more people in this place to-day than at any time before. The young people had a nice ball at the residence of W^m Sutherland's this evening and night.

This is the day according to the report in this country that Jeff Davis and his cabinet are to be executed though it is thought by a great many that he will not be executed at all.

Wednesday, July 5th / 65:- This morning the most of our visitors left for their homes; a pleasant day.

Thursday, July 6th / 65:- Some cowhunters from this place who have been nearly to the Colorado river which is about one hundred miles from here, came in to day with a very fine drove of cattle.

Wess Willett left here with the remnant of his goods. Our blacksmith, who left us this morning to go on a visit to his folks in Stoner Texas, he expects to be gone about six weeks. This evening, he did not sell a very considerable amount of goods in this place, owing to the pressure of the time.

Friday, July 7th / 65:- This has been a very pleasant day, but nothing of interest has transpired within my reach for me to record for to day.

Saturday, July 8th / 65:- I notice some more men in this place trying to buy beef steers with horses. ^{He had a small but very disgraceful fight in this place to day between Mrs. Knapp and Mrs. Clark, the result of children difficulties.}

Sunday, July 9th / 65:- This has been a very warm day and it had the appearance of rain this evening. Several men came in this evening to go on a cow hunt to one run; some were from Elm creek. Late this evening, just at dark Mr. Beldon and Wm. Hinton drove in with a large herd of cattle; they are preparing to move their stock to a new range. Mr. Evans has been quite sick to day, but he appears to be some better this evening.

Monday, July 10th / 65:- This has been another very warm day, and has been raining about in this country in showers a little to day. Late this evening Mrs. Wires accompanied by Mr. Miller and another gentleman came into this place from Belknap.

Tuesday, July 11th / 65:- Nothing of interest.

Wednesday, July 12th / 65:- Buck Miller, Mrs. Wires, and Mr. Coleman, the gentleman that came over with Mr. Miller, left here for home this morning.

Mr. Coleman is trying to buy up a drove of beef steers.

Thursday, July 13th / 65:- It has been quite warm and rained a small shower of rain here to day. R. Stockton came in this evening.