

The Diary of Robert Wade Brice

1861 - 1871

Following are excerpts from the diary of Robert Wade Brice, as recorded in a lined ledger book, recounting events of his life from 1861 to 1871. Principally these events concern a career on his farm, which lay between Youngsville (Woodward) and Blackstocks, in Fairfield and Chester Districts (or Counties).

Robert Wade Brice was born June 10, 1836 in Fairfield District (or County). He was the son of Dr. Walter Brice and Martha Emmaline Brice. It is believed that he was married first to Mary Bell, who died shortly after the marriage. His later marriage, to Martha Matilda Watson is recorded on these pages.

In transcription of this diary, a sequence of three stars indicates omission of part of a day's entry. A sequence of five stars indicates omission of one or more day's entries. Comments and insertions made by me are entered in parentheses. Except for these editorial insertions, the diary has been copied faithfully as written and punctuated. The writing is in ink, in a very neat Spencerian hand. With the exception of a few entries, so noted by me, all are recorded in the same handwriting.

The original diary is in the custody of Mr. James Brice, Woodward, South Carolina.

MARSHALL MOORE BRICE

(The following notation is handwritten across the page above the beginning of this copy of the diary, in the handwriting of Marshall Moore Brice: L.B.D.)

Robert Wade Brice married first Margaret Jane Bell, daughter of William C. and Jane M. Bell. She was born Nov. 22, 1838, married December 2, 1858, died September 21, 1859, buried in Concord Church Cemetery, Woodward, S.C.

1861 List of Stock Hogs etc.

1 mule 12 years old
1 mule 7 years old
1 black mare 5 (years old)
1 bay colt foaled on 29th June 1858
1 bay mule 7 years old

Jany
1863

2 mules. Jany 31st swapped off one of my mules, Judy
1 bay horse foaled 29th June 1858
1 black Mare 7 years old

March

1 Bay Mare, Jessie, 4 years old. 1 colt, Chicaora, 2 years in June

March 2
29th

Mule colt from Bay Mare, Jessie

Cattle

7 Black milk cows
1 White milk cow 4 years old
1 red milk cow 2 years old
1 Heifer milk cow 1 year old
1 Calf, from Red cow, on 11th Feby 1861
1 Calf from White cow, on 15th Feby. 1861
1 Calf, from Black cow, on 6 March 1861

Jany
1863

4 cows and Calves. 1 Heifer & 1 Steer 2 years old 15th & 11th Feby 18 —

Feby

18th Calf from White cow

Hogs

1 Blk Sow	5 years old
1 Red Sow	2½ years old
10 Shoats	1 year old
3 Shoats	Pigged on 23d July 1860
5 Shoats	Pigged on 10th Oct. 1860
5 Pigs from Red Sow	11 Feb. 1861
1 White open Sow	18 months old

Jany
1863

3 Open Sows. 2 Shoats about 1 year old
8 Shoats pigged in August 1862. 6 pigged in Sept
4 Pigs from Spotted Sow 10th January. 1 white Boar
9 Pigs from old Black Sow 28th Jan. 3 from young Black Sow
25th Feby, all dead

June
11th

7 Pigs from old Black Sow

July
1st

24 Hogs, different sizes, from my wife's place. Aug. 7th 3 pigs
from Chester
1 Four horse wagon
4 pairs Gears, chains, Leathers, etc.

May
1867

List of Stock

2 Mules, 7 & 10 years old
1 Horse, Richard, 7 years old
1 Colt, Billy, foaled on 30th March 1864
1 Colt, Joe, foaled about the middle of June 1865
3 Milk Cows & 3 Calves, 1 year old, 3 months old, and one
calved 18th May, Nance's Calf.
1 Dry Cow, Nelly, Traded for another cow

1868

Jany 7th Calf from Black Cow. Apr. 13th Calf from "Red Cow"

Feby
17th

Calf from Black Cow. Feby 18th Calf from Nance
3 Open Sows. 11 Pigs, 4 months old
1 Boar, 18 months old. 5 Shoats about 9 months old.

1861

Money paid out

\$.Cts.

Feb.	13th.	Fare to and from Ca. & Expenses there	20.00
	19th	Paid Robinson & Brice part acct for 1861	30.00
		Paid C T Bell for money borrowed	5.00
	28	Boyne & Sprowl, for Adams Express	107.75
		S.L. Wylie bal of acct of 1859	5.00
		T. Wages	1.50
		T M Cullough for 3 Bu Oats at 75 cts	2.25
		E C Recorder	2.50

March	7th	Wm. Brice. Note & Int	26.00
		Estate of Col Cockrell	1.35
	8	Estate of Col Cockrell	1.95
	11	M W Russell (agt at Bickstcks) Freight	1.20
	22	T Campbell, acct for 1860	7.75
	30	C Cathcart, part acct for 1860	75.00
		C Cathcart for Groceries etc.	15.11
		S. Wolfe, acct 1859	5.35
		S. Wolfe acct 1860	8.75
		G H Parker, part acct 1860	12.00
		T Greever part acct 1860	19.00
		T H Propst part acct 1860	8.40
April	4	Tax Collector, Fairfield Dist. Craig	20.08

1863

Jany	16	McGeets for Grape Cuttings	5.00
	17	Sent to Pomona Nursery for trees	10.00
Jany	27th	Campbell for Pole straps for Buggy	7.00
	28	J. Gardner, Augusta, for Field & Fireside	3.00
	31	difference in mule trade	125.00
Feby	18th	S. Wolfe, Wbo, for Blk Kid Gloves	2.00
Feby	19th	freight on Fruit trees 1.25 & Bundle by express 25 cts.	1.50
		W Stirling for 1 Bushel Lime	1.00
	26	Rev. Thomas W. Erwin (This was the day of his marriage; probably the black kid gloves of Feb. 18 were in anticipation of this marriage.)	15.00
	20	Negroes, Lee & Adam for their corn crop, 3&2	5.00
March	3	Fare from Wbo & articles bought there (This was when he reported to the enrolling officer in Winnsboro)	5.50
	5	Negro, Phoebe, for her corn crop, 62	2.50
	8	Stipends, Concord Church for 1861 & 1862	10.00
April	4	Samuel Brice for Negro shoes, 2 prs. \$6	12.00
	17	State & District Taxes, 28 Negroes & 700 Acres Land (This is confirmation of his holdings in 1863)	44.40
	23	Groom's fee for G. Br Horse	1.00
		Negroes for crops (No entry)	
		Mason John Mobley for plastering pillars	2.00
	29	Editor, Southern Cultivator, Augusta, Ga.	1.00
May	19	R R Fare to Chester & for goods	23.00
	23	For goods in Wbo	13.00
	25	Negro, Smith Reid, for Strawhat, homemade	2.00
June	8	Negro for making collars & cutting RR wood	1.90

1863

Money Received

Jany	28	From sale of	50 pounds Butter, @ 6 cts.	3.00
		" "	3&1/8 Bushels Rye, at \$4	12.50
Feby	5	" "	Railroad Wood, 2.50 per cord, 2 ft lengths	56.25
March	10	" "	Six Bushels Potatoes at \$1.25	7.50
April	1	" "	4½ " " " "	5.62½
	13	" "	2 Bushels Peas, at \$1.50	3.00
	17	" "	1 Steer, to Alexander	50.00
	29	" "	Sale of corn belonging to my wife Recd from my wife	117.65 210.00
May	27	From sale of	corn at \$2.50 per bushel & delivered at Blackstcks	25.00
June	13	" " "	" " " "	12.35
	20	" sale &	hauling of corn at \$2.50, at crib	107.50
July	1	" " " "	" " " " " "	25.30
	3	" " of	hay	13.45

Money Paid -----June 12th 1863

June	12	Paid for	Tobacco, 7 lb. \$2.25, ½ lb \$1.50	3.75
	17	"	Postage on Newspapers	1.60
	21	"	Postage on Letters	.20
	22	"	for 1 plug Tobacco	1.50
	29	"	J Campbell for Bridle Reins	1.25
	30	"	R R fare to & from & expenses in Columbia	11.00
		"	Articles bought " "	106.60
July	1	"	G H Miller, Note & Int., \$51.47 & acct of 1862, \$7.40	58.87
	2	"	chickens, 50 cts each, & shuck mats 1.00	2.00
	7	"	freight on Bil Salt \$1.80 & for Tobacco for Ritchie, for pair common shoes	2.25 20.00
	11	"	Sam Brice, for pr shoes made in Jany, \$8.00 & pr in July, \$10.00	18.00
	16	"	RR, 7.00, & Bus Fare, 2.00, 2 seats, & Hotel Bill in Ca, 1 day \$16.00	25.00
	17	"	Dr. Reynolds for plugging 7 teeth RR & Bus Fare \$9.00, & articles bought, \$19.25	30.00 28.25
	25	"	L Lumpkin for 3 lbs Tobacco \$3.50	10.50
	28	"	H Steele for 10 Postage Stamps	1.00
Aug	3	"	John Chapman for Letter Paper ½ quire	1.00
	5	"	E Dawkins for Cross Cut Saw \$5.00 & Balance for chairs, \$1.50	6.50

Aug	7	"	Daily Guardian for six months	8.00
	10	"	two Shuck Collars @ 80 cts	1.60
		"	1 pr Wool Cards	15.00
Aug	13	"	1 " Cotton do.	17.00
	15	"	Adam, when going to Coast	2.00
(Apparently this was a slave who was being sent to the defenses at Charleston)				
	20	"	J.A. Brice. Bal Acct. 1861 & 1862	77.87
	29	"	H. Steele. acct for 1862	7.00
Sept	5	"	Express freight on box to Chester	1.00
	8	"	J. Tenant's Note \$160.00 & Int 16.80	176.80
		"	Freight on Box to Chester	1.00
	17	"	Capt. E.J. Means. Bal. Army acct	9.89

Money Received from 5th July 1863

1863

July	6		From sale of Fodder @ \$4.00 per hundred lbs	25.08
	25	" "	a Beef, blk cow, to Capt. Smart	100.00
	30	" "	Black blind Mare	125.00
Aug	3	"	payment of H. Castle's acct for Tuition in 1858	12.00
	29	"	Sale of 5 cts lb, & hauling 682 lbs Flour, to Govmt @ \$11.00	75.75
Sept	4	"	Payment of a note held by my wife, on Jas & Jon Wages, for com	20.00
	5	"	Sale of 5 Bu Wheat at \$4.00 to J. Beame	20.00
	22	"	Sale of an old mule to Mrs. Watson	25.00
Sept	28	"	Pasturing Govmt Cattle	6.50
Nov	20	"	J. Cameron, Borrowed money	20.00
Dec	15	"	Payment of a note on A Hindman	55.55
	19	"	Sale of 14 Bu Oats @ \$2.50	35.00
		" " "	3 Bu Corn @ \$3.00	9.00

Money Paid Out. From 17th Sept 1863

Sept	16	Paid for	R. McIlroy, for covering a hat	5.00
	19	" "	½ lb Salts \$1.50 & Paper	
			Smking Tobacco 2.00	3.50
	30	" "	2½ lbs Smoking Tobacco	5.00
Oct	2	" "	5½ lb Chewing Tobacco @ \$3.50	19.25
	12	" "	1 Bunch Cotton Yarn, \$25.00, & Augur & Gimlets, \$2.00	27.00
	24	" "	Confederate Tax	14.97
	27	Loaned	J. Cameron	20.00
Nov	3	Paid	Sam Brice for 1 pr Negro Shoes	10.00
	17	Gave	for support of Soldier's Families & poor of the District	20.00

(The item above is stricken out, with the notation,
"Money returned".)

	19	Paid	J McKeown for two mares being put to his Jack, Jessie in 1862 & Bessie in 1863	20.00
	21	Paid	Wm Brice for 2 1/4 bu Salt @ \$28.00	63.00
	30	"	Negro of Mr. Woodward's for making Cotton rope	1.75
Dec	5	"	J Campbell for padding wagon saddle	14.00
	8	"	N Dunbar part pay for fixing boots	14.00
		"	J Cameron for 3 cuts shoe thread	3.00
	15	"	Estate of A Hindman for Blacksmith tools	51.00
	21	"	For patching Negro shoes	5.00
	28	"	my Negroes for their crops corn	32.00
	29	"	for a wagon whip	4.00

Cash Book, 1864

(This cash book runs from January 4, 1864, to February 29, 1864. It is in two columns, a Debtor and a Credit column. The item "Cash on Hand" is \$132.00 on January 4th, and varies from \$66.00 to \$269. I have made no attempt to list all the items in this Cash Book, but have made notations only of interesting transactions. Names in the Book include A Dunbar, Mr. Yates, J C Cameron, John Aiken, J B Mobley, N. Dunbar, Garick, R. White, Mills, Mr. Woodward's boy Ed, James Brown. A few items are listed below:)

Jan	4	Recd payment of Int on Cotton Bond	25.00
	4	Pd for mending Gold Button	2.00
	8	R R fare to and from Wbo	2.50
		Suppers at Hotel for two	5.00
	11	R R fare to and from Wbro	2.25
		Articles bot in Wboro	4.85
	23	Cash to Sarah, Negro, for crops	7.00
	30	Recd payment for butter sold since 27 July 1863	145.00
Feb	5	For sale of 1 Bu Wheat	10.00
	9	By cash to my Negroes	6.00
	13	Recd from one of my Negroes for Wheat	8.00
	13	Paid for Rice	8.00
	21	For Sale of 2 Bu Irish Potatoes @ \$8.00	16.00
	29	For Sale of 4 Bu Wheat @ 12.50	50.00
Feb	29	For Sale of 5 Bu Peas @ \$8.00	40.00
		For Sale of 19 cords Wood @ \$3.00	57.00

1861

Feb 13th Sold 5 Bales Cotton - weights as follows - 464 - 313 - 430 - 406 - 416 - to Richard Oneale at \$10.75 per hundred. Cotton declining - sales very dull. Attended Ed Robinson's wedding at night. My hands working in the New-Ground, chopping & splitting rails and Rail-Road wood.

1861

- Feb 28th Beautiful weather for some days. Trees putting out rapidly. Hands working in New Ground, chopping, hauling wood to the Rail Road, etc. Put up a monument over the grave of my deceased wife today. (Presumably this was the first wife of Robert Wade Brice, Mary Bell Brice; no reference is made to the site of the grave. Note that, in the Money Paid Out list, there is the following entry for Feb 13, 1861: "Fare to & from Ca & expenses etc there \$20.00) Note also the entry for Feb 28, 1861: Boyne & Sprowl, for Adams Express)
- March 1 March setting in beautifully. Weather very pleasant. Put out some Grape Cuttings yesterday.
- March 6 Great change in the weather. Cold & windy. Peaches all or nearly all killed by Frost last night. Planted drill Potatoes yesterday. Had some carrot seed sowed this morning.
- March 7 - Attended the sale of Estate of Col Cockrel. In co-partnership with G M Boulware & C I Bell bought a fine Stallion colt at \$300.00.
- March 11 Hands finished fencing the New Ground. Weather cold & windy. Heavy Frost this morning.
- March 12. Weather still cool. Two hands commenced plowing up cotton stalks in the Far Field this morning. The other breaking up a piece of weed land beyond the Robinson Spring.
- March 14. Weather warmer and cloudy. Considerable thunder during the day. Hands hauling rails and fixing up old fences. Rather cool yet for planting corn.
- March 15 Good deal of hail last night. Cold this morning. Finished hauling rails today.
- March 16th Attended the drill of the Little River Guards today. Hands building fence. (No mention is made of muster place of the Little River Guards, but probably it was in the New Hope section. It was a militia company.)
- March 17 Weather warm & cloudy. Considerable rain in evening.
- March 18 A wet disagreeable morning. Commenced sleeting in the evening, but ended in snow, falling rapidly at night.
- March 19 The ground covered with snow this morning to the depth of three or four inches. The sun shining brightly & melting the snow very fast. The Hands working in the New Ground, splitting wood, killing trees, etc.
- March 20 Found one of my mules lying dead in the stable this morning. Cause of his death not known certainly, but I think he probably had Blind-Staggers. Was well enough last night at feeding time. Weather cool still. Snow nearly all

- gone. Two hands breaking up the old field near the Rail Road. The others cleaning it up, killing trees, etc.
- March 21 Finished breaking up the old field today & commenced cotton Ground in the House field. Weather still cold.
- March 22 Two hands plowing cotton land. Father sent me a mule this morning. Two hands helping to pack cotton in evening. Packed 4½ for me & 1½ for Scott. (Scott presumably was brother to Robert Wade Brice. His father was Dr. Walter Brice.)
- March 23 Heard with sorrow of the death of S R Stirling Esq. today. Weather warmer. Considerable fall of rain in evening.
- March 24 Attended the funeral of Samuel Stirling. Weather very pleasant.
- March 25 Commenced planting corn in far field. Hauled one load of cotton seed to put on it. One hand bedding up cotton land. Took my horse to Charlie Bell's this morning to have him broke. Worked him to the wagon a little & then hitched him to the Buggy with another horse. He performed finely.
- March 27 Finished planting the Far Field this morning. Planted some Sweet Potatoes in the evening. (Evening then referred to that part of the day after the noon hour.)
- March 28 Two hands commenced plowing last year's New Ground, bedding for cotton. Two hands working on the Road until 12 o'clock. The others chopping & burning logs & brush before the plows. Weather very pleasant.
- March 30 Went to Winnsboro to sell cotton. Sold to C. Cathcart one Bale weighing 346 lbs at 11¼ cts & 4 weighing as follows: 359, 307, 339, 348 at 9¾ cts. Market brisk, good cotton commanding 11¼ very easily. The Little River Guards voted today to offer their services to President Davis. My plough hands preparing ground & planting Sweet Potatoes until 12 o'clock.
- April 1 Weather cool this morning, but warmer during the evening. Beautiful time for planting. Rain perhaps needed a little. Two hands bedding cotton & one corn ground. The balance cutting logs & cleaning up in the bottoms.
- April 2 Two hands still bedding cotton ground. One hand commenced breaking up Bottoms below the old house in the evening, having finished bedding the ridge land. Weather warm. Considerable rain in the evening, with hail stones as large as Partridge Eggs, the largest I recollect of having ever seen.
- April 3 Cloudy & cool, with a little rain. Ground too wet to plow. Two hands hauling manure about the old house & the others cleaning up around it in the forenoon. Hauling wood to the R R & rolling & burning logs in the New Ground.

- April 4 Three hands plowing cotton ground around the old house. Two putting in manure & two burning logs in New Ground. Paid Taxes (20.08) today. Paid for 44 acres of Land, third class, eleven Negroes & one Negro Dog. Weather cool and cloudy.
- April 5 Commenced planting corn again this morning in the old House-Field. One hand bedding in New Ground for cotton. Weather pleasant.
- April 6 Finished planting my early corn this morning about 9 O'clock A.M. Two hands plowing in the cotton ground & one breaking up the Bottoms. Went fishing today in company with R W Watson. Caught some small fish. Spent the evening very pleasantly at Mrs. Watson's. Cloudy & cool. (Mrs. Watson was Martha Matilda Watson. She was originally a Marshall, then married a Vinson, and after being widowed, married Richardson Watson. She had a son named Richardson Walker Watson, who died in the Civil War. Whether this refers to the father or the son is not known.)
- April 8 A very wet day. Hands hauling wood off the New Ground, burning logs, etc. Spent the day at T.M. Boulware's.
- April 9 Weather cloudy & a little cool. Ground too wet to plow. Hands hauling wood, burning logs, etc. again. Our Company, The Little River Guards, together with the other companies composing the 6th Regt of S.C. Volunteers, received orders to go to Charleston. Start Thursday morning. The Regt numbers some Eight Hundred men, under command of Col. Rion. A number of vessels belonging to the United States is reported off the Bar of Charleston. The truth of the matter is not known. We will probably have hot work.

(No entries appear in the diary from April 9, 1861, to January 14, 1863. As subsequent entries show, Robert Brice did go with the Little River Guards, serving in Company H, 6th South Carolina Volunteers, and rising to the grade of 3rd Lieutenant. He was wounded in the Battle of Seven Pines May 31, 1862, and resigned as unfit for further service. His resignation was accepted December 9, 1862.)

1863 DIARY

- Jan'y 14 Sold to C Cathcart, Winnsboro, three Bales Cotton, being the last of the crop of 1862, at 16½ cts. Weather warmer & cloudy. Have had a great deal of rain for two weeks past. My hands and those of the estate of my brother, W.S.B., working together, Jas Cameron overseeing for us. We give him \$300.00, 20 Bushels of Corn & 5 of Wheat. He attended our business last year, we both being absent in the army. I have been at home now more than six months, having been disabled by a wound in the hip received in the battle of Seven Pines 31st May 1862. Am not able to walk much yet.

Have resigned my commission of 3rd Lieut Co H 6 Regmt S C Vols and will remain at home, being entirely unfit for service & so pronounced by the Surgeons. My resignation was accepted on the 9th Dec 1862. (WSB refers to Walter Scott Brice, brother to Robert W. Brice.)

- Jany 15 Weather quite warm. Wind blowing hard all day. Three hands plowing, breaking up the ground, near my house. Others splitting & hauling rails & cleaning up. Raining a little at night & wind still blowing very hard.
- January 16 A great change in weather. Very cold this morning. The rain which fell last night frozen. Wind continued to blow. Killed five hogs this morning, weighing as follows, 213, 229, 168, 133, 92 pounds. Killed five on the 8th Dec 1862, weighing 707 pounds. Had 100 Grape Cuttings put out for which I paid \$5.00.
- January 17 One of the coldest days I ever felt in this climate.
- January 19 Still cold this morning, cloudy with appearance of snow. Two hands splitting rails, two harrowing, the rest building fence. Turning warmer in evening & threatening rain.
- January 20 Raining nearly all day.
- January 23 Weather warmer & a little cloudy. Had the hands raking & hauling manure most of today, to put about some fruit trees. Put out 32 Pear trees, most of them from seed planted in my garden, 10 of them grafted trees of one year's growth from Scott's garden. (Again this Scott must refer to Walter Scott Brice, brother.)
- January 24 Weather still warm, fine for plantation work. Hands hauling and splitting rails and cutting briars, etc. Two hands preparing ground to set out some more trees. I first plowed the ground with a long turning plow and followed with a long grab. Plowed my garden in the same way, loosening the ground to the depth of 12 or 14 inches. Put out 8 cuttings of wild grapes today.
- January 24 Six hands plowing, breaking up in old house field. Two splitting rails, the balance cleaning up. Weather still warm & cloudy this evening.
- January 27 A little rain last night. Hands packing fodder to sell to Wm Brice for the Government. Packed six bales for Scott's place & five for me. We get \$2.00 per hundred pounds, delivered at Blackstocks.
- January 28 Weather colder. Commenced snowing last night & everything white this morning. Continued until about 4 o'clock this evening. Lay about 2 inches deep. Not much work going on.

- Jan 29 Hauled out our fodder this morning. Hands cleaning up some patches of land in old house field. Weather clear and cold. Snow nearly all gone.
- Jan 30 Hands splitting rails, sprouting, etc. Weather warm & looking like spring.
- Jan 31 Two hands hauling wood, two splitting rails, the rest sprouting & cutting briars. Traded an old mule, Jude, today for one four years old. Gave \$125. between them. Weather warm & threatening rain.
- Feb 1 Glorious news from Charleston today. On Friday the U S Gun-Boat, John P. Smith, & crew were captured in Stone River by Lieut-Col Yates, & another badly crippled. At 1 O'clock Friday night the Gun Boats Palmetto State & Chicora, under command of Commodore Ingraham, left Charleston harbor & attacked the blockading fleet, sinking two Gun Boats, crippling a third and chasing the balance off. No loss on our side.
- (The following entry is interlinear) Feb 9 A mistake. Known now that they were not sunk, but escaped, disabled & in tow of other boats.
- Feb 2 A light rain last night. Warm this morning & still cloudy. Two hands fixing posts for a fence in front of my house. Others splitting & hauling rails, cleaning up.
- Feb 3 Ground covered with about 3 inches snow this morning. Very much surprised to see it. Quite cold & wind blowing. Very little out door work going on.
- Feb 4 A very cold morning. Hands hauling wood & building fence around my house. Snow melting a little in forenoon but freezing in evening. Appearances of more snow.
- Feb 5 Commenced sleeting some time last night & continued until about 10 o'clock when it began to rain. Hands doing little jobs in doors in forenoon. Sent two boys in afternoon to cut fire wood for old Mr. Pannel, who is lying very sick. Also sent him a piece of meat. The balance of the boys cutting coal wood. Women doing nothing.
- Feb 6 Weather cool. Snow thawing a little. Hands chopping out a little piece of woods in the new ground next the R Road. Sent a boy to mill for Mr. Pannel. The old man no better. Very sick & he would be in starving condition were it not for the charity of his neighbors. A hard time for the poor, provisions of all kinds so high.
- Feb 7 Cooler than yesterday. Snow melting very little until afternoon. Two hands splitting rails & wood. The rest chopping & burning brush.
- Feb 9 Weather very pleasant. Snow melting quite rapidly. Hands splitting rails,

chopping, etc. in new ground. On noticing my hogs today I find seven young pigs out of a litter of nine missing. Cannot account for their disappearance: but think rather that they were stolen. My hogs all in good condition. The weather for some time has been very severe on stock of all kinds. My cattle rather lean having no shelter, which, I find, is very necessary to keep them in good order. Even when well fed & attended with out it they do not get fat.

- Feby 10 A very warm spring-like day. Hands splitting & hauling rail & burning brush around my house. Mr. Cameron with one hand hanging yard gates, fixing garden gate, etc. Find another of my pigs gone this morning. On reflection think they were overlaid by other hogs & then eat by them.
- Feby 11 Cloudy this morning with light sprinkle of rain. Clear toward middle of day but very hazy & quite warm. Hands working as yesterday.
- Feby 12 A very pleasant day. Hands splitting & hauling rails & building fence in Watson place.
- Feby 13 Finished repairing fences in Watson place today. Will commence plowing tomorrow. Weather a little cooler.
- Feby 14 Weather considerably cooler this morning. Cloudy & looking like we might have snow. Six hands plowing in the old house field in forenoon & in afternoon breaking up the field sown in grain last year joining Mr. Woodward's field, preparatory for bedding it for cotton. Three hands splitting rails, the balance cleaning up. Had one of my hands hunting all day for two missing shoats. Did not find them.
- Feby 16 Cloudy and raining a little nearly all day. Two hands split rails. The balance hauling rails & building or rather repairing fence.
- Feby 17 Raining a little again all day. Hands hauling wood, splitting rails & building fence around a patch below my house.
- Feby 18 Very heavy rain last night. Considerably cooler than for several days. Showers throughout the day. Killed five shoats average 75 pounds. Having been wild for some time, I thought it best to kill them.
- Feby 19 Still cloudy but not raining. Hands splitting rails in the patch near the house & cleaning it off. Find on examination that my oats were badly killed out by the freezing weather we had some time since. All kinds of grain backward.
- Feby. 20 Clear & cool. Set out forty peach trees procured from Mr. Summers' nursery at Pomaria, S.C. They have been detained so long on the road I am fearful they will not live. All are early varieties. Hands hauling & splitting rails & sprouting cutting briars, etc.

- Feby 21 Cool with a little sleet and rain in morning. Hands cutting rolling logs, sprouting, etc. Commenced raining about dark with fine prospect of continuing all night.
- Feby 22 Rained all night last night. Water courses all very high.
- Feby 23 Clear & cold. Hands cleaning up some pieces of ground in Watson place.
- Feby 24 A beautiful clear day. Hands cutting & rolling logs, sprouting, etc. Two breaking up some little pieces of new ground.
- Feby 25 Clear & warm in morning, but clouded up in afternoon & commenced raining a little about dark. Hands raking & hauling out manure in forenoon. In evening cutting & hauling logs from my yard & cleaning it up.
- Feby 26 Rained very little last night. Still cloudy this morning but quite pleasant. Hands working about the house & patch near it. An important day in my life. At 11½ o'clock a m I was married to Miss M. M. Watson. Ceremony performed by Rev. Thos W. Erwin. Went down to Father's in afternoon to spend a few days. Cleared off in evening. (This was Martha Matilda Watson, second wife of Robert Wade Brice. Rev. Erwin was paid \$15 for performing the ceremony. In accordance with custom the bridal pair went to his father's home for the honeymoon.)
- March 2 Weather clear & beautiful. Had a great deal of rain since my last writing but looks now as if we might have some fine weather. Returned to Mrs. Watson's this morning. Rode over home in evening. Found part of hands hauling out manure & rest cleaning up some patches of ground on the Watson place.
- March 3 Spent the forenoon at Thos Boulware's. Went to Winnsboro in afternoon to report myself to the Enrolling Officer of Fairfield District, Lieut Col Stark Means. Was discharged again. The examining surgeon, Dr. Donnelly, pronouncing me unfit for service. Weather clear, cold, wind blowing. Hands working as yesterday.
- March 4 Quite cool. Threatening rain in evening but clear at sunset. Portion of the hands plowing, the balance cleaning up. Brought my wife home this evening.
- March 5 A beautiful day, clear & cold. Considerable frost & ground frozen last night. No work going on, this day having been set apart by Gov. Bonham as a day of thanksgiving. Examined my hogs this morning, found that two more of my sows have had pigs & lost them all except one or two, & they looking dying. Can account for it in no other way than the sows being too young, being not more than eight months old. Have now only four pigs out of about twenty pigged since the 1st January.

- March 6 Cloudy & cool, a little rain in morning. Planted a half bushel of Irish Potatoes this morning. Broke up the ground, bedded it, & dropped them in the water furrow. Hands plowing, bedding corn land in Watson place, & cleaning up in hollows, etc.
- March 7 Weather warmer and cloudy. Hands working as yesterday. Commenced putting my Black Mare to a Jack, (John McKeown's.)
- March 9 Cloudy in morning & very warm but clear toward middle of day. Cloudy again in evening & looking like rain. Considerable thunder & lightning last night. Seven plows bedding corn land in Watson place. Balance cutting briers & sprouting before the plows. Transplanted about thirty Plum trees today, principally Blue Gage & Sugar Plums.
- March 10 Cloudy & cold, with occasional showers during the day. Three hands bedding cotton land in the field near the house & stubble land. Four bedding on the other place. The others cleaning up, cutting trees etc.
- March 11 Very hard rain last night. Too wet to plow this morning. Hands fixing fence & splitting rails. Grain of every kind seems to be growing well. Noticed my rye pasture today, sown in December, looks finely & is ready for pasturing. Set out several Fig Bushes which were sent me by Mrs. Watson, also one Pear tree grafted on Quince.
- March 12 Cool & windy. Hands hauling rails, cutting up fallen trees in the field & cleaning up generally. Rode over the land belonging to my wife this morning. Find I will have about fifty acres of Bottom land to cultivate. Will also plant some twenty acres of upland in corn. Will have five hands to work it & will plant no cotton there. Moved one of the negroes home for a cook. Will have the remainder on the place this year.
- March 13. Clear & windy. Considerable freezing last night. Three hands bedding cotton land on my place, three cleaning up before the plows, the others planting a patch of cotton & Irish Potatoes on the place of my brother. We are working fifteen hands, nine of my brother's estate & six of mine. Will plant our crops separate but will probably work together as we have one overseer on both places. Commenced plowing my horse this morning. Works very well.
- March 14 A very pleasant day, cool in the morning but the sun very pleasant up in the day. Hands working on my place as yesterday, breaking up stubble land for Cotton on the other place. Plowing badly behind on account of so much rain.
- March 16 Cloudy & cool in morning, warmer in afternoon. Three hands bedding cotton ground in the old apple orchard piece, three putting in manure in the morning, one laying off ground for Potatoes & breaking up an old fence row back of my kitchen to plant some early corn in afternoon.

The others plowing on the other place as before. Took down one pit of Sweet Potatoes this evening, about forty bushels, have kept very sound.

- March 17 A warm pleasant day. Commenced bedding out Potatoes this morning. Bedded six bushels on each of our places. My hands preparing the ground where I intend planting them. Planted my early corn & a few Irish Potatoes this evening.
- March 18 Weather still pleasant, fine for grain, which is looking well and growing rapidly. Planted two bushels of Potatoes this morning. Bedded the ground, opened the bed, put in manure, and covered it with hoes so as to rake up the ridges, then put in the Potatoes with the hoe. Three hands breaking up some pieces around edges of branch bottoms, three others cleaning up and getting seed corn, the balance working on other place as before.
- March 19 Great change in weather. Rain last night & quite cool this morning. Three plows in old home field preparing cottonland. Others worked as yesterday.
- March 20 Rained lightly all night & froze. I fear the fruit is all killed. Hands raking up & hauling out manure. (There is a second entry dated March 20. This may have been an error in transcribing rather than in the original diary. L.B.D.)
- March 20 Still cold & raining nearly all day. Hands raking & hauling out manure.
- March 21 Rained lightly all night & froze. I fear the fruit is all killed, at least Peaches & Plums, they being in full bloom. No work going on in morning on account of rain & cold. Hauling leaves into my lot in afternoon, the rain having stopped. Ice all thawed by night.
- Monday, March 23 A warm beautiful day. Find on examination that the Peaches & Plums are not all killed, though the crop is, no doubt, materially damaged. Ground too wet to plow. Hands hauling out & raking up manure & cutting up fallen trees in field next Rail Road. Had seven shoats speyed this evening.
- March 24 Commenced raining before daylight this morning & continued very hard & steadily nearly all the forenoon. Hands doing nothing except shelling a little corn in morning, working on the road towards Blackstocks in afternoon. Found one of the shoats that were speyed lying dead & one or two others in bad fix. Nearly clear about sunset & very warm.
- March 25 Wind blew very hard last night, rained & hailed a little. Considerably cooler this morning. Fences blown down. After putting them up the hands went to work in old house field cutting up fallen timbers, etc. Another of my shoats dead. Grafted two or three wild grape vines this evening on roots of wild vines growing near the house. Used no wax, but only drew up the dirt around the graft. Tried it merely for the sake of experiment.

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- March 26 Weather quite cold & changeable. Considerable frost, not enough, I think, however to kill anything. Very clear early in morning, towards midday cloudy with appearance of snow or sleet, clear again in evening & a little warmer. Three hands cleaning up hill side, in house field joining Miss Jane Polly and burning broom straw off it. Three others breaking it up for cotton. Hands on other place breaking & cleaning up piece of land or new ground in Watson place.
- March 27 No work going on today, it being a day of fasting appointed by Presdt Davis. Weather warm.
- March 28 Cloudy & raining a little nearly all day. Intended beginning corn planting this morning, but the weather being unfavorable gave it out. Hands preparing corn land & cleaning up in old house field.
- Sunday March 29 Cloudy & warm. Bay mare, Jessie, had a colt last night, a fine, strong looking mule colt out of John McKeown's Jack.
- March 30 Cloudy & quite cold. Hands working in old house field bedding corn. Commenced planting corn, with one drill, in evening, covering with two furrows. Planting a hill side above the old house spring which has been lying out for several years. Commenced raining late in evening. Began planting in Watson place also.
- March 31 Cold & windy. Ground too wet to plow. Hands from both places putting up a coal & tar kiln this morning. In evening cut out a piece of Pines near my house & filled some gullies. Dreadfully behind with plowing on account of so much wet weather. Very few persons planting corn yet.
- April 1 A cold evening, ice plenty. My plowhands bedding corn ground in old house field, the rest cleaning up. One sick. In evening broke up the piece of Pine Land we cleared yesterday, then went to bedding cotton land in R R field. Hands in other place slipshucking & hauling corn to Youngesville. 100 bushels sold from the place at \$2.00 per bushel.
- April 2 Clear & cold. Wind high all day. Commenced planting corn again this morning with one drill, covering with one furrow. One hand bedding cotton in R R field, one sick, & one minding coal kiln. Planting also on my brother's place & on my other place. Examined my hogs this evening again. Find three have died from being speyed & all of my pigs gone except two. Put a muzzle on one of my cows to keep her from sucking herself.
- April 3 Clear & windy in forenoon; but clouded up towards the middle of the day & rained a little in evening. Hands working as yesterday.

- April 4 Considerable rain last night. Too wet for planting this morning, though it is now cold & windy. Plow hands bedding cotton in the R R field, the others scattering manure on the old field, part of it in morning, & picking up & burning fallen brushes in evening.
- April 6 A beautiful day, clear & cool in morning but cloudy about midday & threatening rain. Hands still planting corn in old house field. Sent one hand, Adam, to the R R in accordance with an order from Col Shannon, agent for the state, for procuring slave labor for the defenses of the coast; but no others having come, & the enemy apparently about to make an attack on Charleston, I concluded not to send him.
- April 7 Clear & cool. Still planting corn. Finished at the home place this morning all the ground we had ready. Hands then began bedding in the new ground below the old house. Other hands cutting & burning logs in the same field. Commenced putting bay mare, Jessie, to Thos Boulware's horse, "Billy Preston." Finished planting upland corn on my other place & began bedding the Bottom land.
- April 8 Weather fine, clear & cool. Hands working as yesterday. The long expected attack on Charleston began. Nine ironclads attacked Fort Sumter & after firing several hours & accomplishing nothing, they ceased. Two of them disabled by our guns.
- April 9 A continuation of good weather. Seems like Spring has set in, at last, though it is quite cool yet. No change in our work. The attack on Charleston still progressing yesterday. One of the enemy's most powerful vessels, the Keokuk, sunk off Morris Island.
- April 10 A very pretty day. Hands finished bedding old house new ground in forenoon & went to bedding cotton land in R R field, three plows. All quiet at Charleston. Enemy Ironclads still lying within the bar.
- April 11 Bright & clear in forenoon but cloudy in evening & considerable thunder. No rain however. Our Legislature, which has been in extra session for a week, adjourned today. At the regular session it passed a Bill restricting Cotton planting to three acres to every field hand between the ages of 15 & 50. In extra session it has passed a Bill restricting it to one acre. Most persons, myself among them, had three acres to the hand ready for planting, & some have planted but will not be allowed to cultivate, I suppose. I will plant my surplus ground in Corn & Sugar-cane. The intention of the Bill is to compel people to raise provision, as there are so many whom the high price of cotton would tempt them to raise cotton to the neglect of provision crops. There is some dissatisfaction about the Bill. For my own part I think it not only good but almost one of necessity. Rode over my wheat & oats field yesterday.

Wheat looking very well. Oats sorry, badly killed by the hard freeze of the winter.

Sunday, April 12. A very hard storm this evening, wind, hail & rain.

- April 13 Bright & warm. Hands putting up fences this morning, blown down by yesterday's storm. Never saw fences blown so badly; take all day to put them up.
- April 14 Raining a little nearly all day. Three hands plowing, splitting out cotton middles in Rail Road field. The others sprouting.
- April 15 Ground too wet to plow. Hands cutting, burning logs, & cleaning up generally in old house field.
- April 16 Cloudy all day, but not raining any. Hands cleaning a little piece of ground on branch below the house in forenoon. Started the plows in afternoon, putting out cotton middles. Other hands cutting briars, sprouting, etc.
- April 17 Plow hands splitting out middles in "Apple orchard piece," preparatory to planting it in Sugar cane. Sent the wagon from other place, their land being too wet to plow, to Father's for some sheep which he gave me, seven sheep & six lambs. Sold a beef to a government agent, Alexander, for \$50.00. Commenced planting Sugar cane seed this evening. Weather warm & beautiful.
- April 18 Weather quite warm & clear. Planted a few Sugar Cane see this morning but found my seed so badly eaten by rats that I quit & sent to Father for seed. One hand bedding corn ground around the old house, the other preparing land for Sugar Cane until 12 o'clock. Planted a few Potatoes in the evening. Had ground broken up for a watermelon patch & laid off a ditch below the house. Laid it off with a Level, the first one I ever tried. Do not know how it will do. Haven't got it cleaned out yet. Planted a few Watermelon this morning in my early corn patch, the corn having failed to come up.
- April 20 Finished planting Sugar cane seed about 3 o'clock p m. Planted about six acres. Planted corn the balance of evening in field near the house. Weather dry & warm. A hard crust on the ground from the beating rain of Sunday a week ago. Corn coming very slowly & I fear we will have a poor stand if we do not get rain soon. Hands on other place putting another furrow on corn and boarding it off.
- April 21 Commenced planting cotton, opening with one drill, only planted 9½ acres. Planting in R R field. One hand breaking driest spots of Bottom land below the house. Ground in fine fix for putting in cotton seed. Weather cooler.

- April 22 Appearance of rain & cool. Brought over the plows from my brother's place & finished planting my cotton against 12 O'clock, they having finished yesterday. Planted the piece of new ground in R R field in corn in evening. Did not break it up but ran two furrows in one, put in the corn, and covered with two furrows.
- April 23 A fine rain last night. Too wet to plow this morning. Hands cleaning out the ditch we laid off the other day. Putting out cabbage plants in the garden, etc. Still cloudy. Commenced planting corn again in the evening in house field. One hand breaking branch bottoms in same field. Weather warm & clear again.
- April 24 Working as yesterday in forenoon. In afternoon had one plow planting Irish potatoes. Planted some watermelons. Manured some with stable manure, others with hen manure & others with cotton seed. Examined my meat today, having heard that several persons in the neighborhood had found theirs spoiling. Found my Hams in bad condition, almost all of them badly damaged. They appeared sound outside but on cutting them open, I found them spoiled & full of maggots next the bone. The salt seems not to have penetrated through the meat & the bugs have made holes in it, in which the flies deposited their eggs. It was salted away carefully; but with salt made on our coast & I fear it was not strong enough. I had all the tainted parts cut away, then salted, sprinkled with hot ashes & packed them in a box. I found nothing wrong except with the hams. Weather warm & clear. Corn coming up very fast since the rain & everything growing finely.
- April 25 Finished planting upland corn in house field at 12 O'clock. Negroes planting their patches in evening, principally sugar cane. Another of my hogs missing, the best one I had. Feel satisfied that someone stole it. Have only eleven left that will be fit to kill next winter.
- April 27 Weather cloudy & light showers during the day. Hands planting a piece of corn around the old house & plowing up the hill side of corn which we planted first, having failed to get a stand on it. The ground being very rough, we are breaking part of it & throwing two furrows together on the balance. Have pretty good stand on most of our land. Commenced planting corn on creek bottoms. Two plows planting, the others still bedding up.
- April 28 Fine rain last night. Planting the cornland which we plowed yesterday. Started two hands to replanting corn with hoes. Bottoms too wet to plant this morning. Planted a little in evening but had to stop account of rain. Showery all evening.
- April 29 Very warm & cloudy this morning. Two hands plowing up & replanting corn as yesterday & one bedding out the middle where we threw two furrows together yesterday until 12 o'clock.

- Hauled some wagon spokes out of the field this evening. Raining nearly all evening. Ground very wet. Still cloudy at night & threatening rain.
- April 30 Warm & cloudy in forenoon but clear in evening. Finished planting the corn which we plowed up & plowed in the corn till 12 o'clock. Then commenced planting in the old house field, new ground, fresh land. Had my sheep sheared this morning. Planted some watermelons. Hands on other place sprouting in creek bottoms in morning & replanting corn in evening.
- May 1 A beautiful day & quite warm. Hands at home working as yesterday. On other place bedding up bottoms & cleaning up until 12 o'clock, then planting. Planted some more watermelons & some muskmelons. Have not finished yet. Have a large patch & will have abundance of them if they do well. My first planting, planted April 18th, beginning to come up.
- May 2 Finished the corn at 12 o'clock & commenced bedding bottoms in same field. Two plows planting corn & others bedding up, on other place. Weather warm.
- May 4 Weather very warm. Finished bedding & planting branch bottoms & commenced breaking up a piece of ground in house field for a Sweet Potatoe patch. Sent one plow & Andy to the other place to bed in creek bottoms. Working there as yesterday.
- May 5 Finished planting my watermelons this morning. My bedded potatoes coming up well. Finished breaking Potatoe patch. Commenced bedding a little bottom near the house to plant hominy corn. Working on other place as yesterday. News today of another great battle near Fredricksburg. Our forces again victorious. Generals Paxton killed & Stonewall Jackson severely wounded; Heath & A.P. Hill slightly.
- May 6. Warm & showery this morning. Plows bedding & breaking some pieces of ground around the house for Watermelon patch, Potatoes, etc until 12 o'clock, then went to plowing in corn in old house field, putting three furrows in middle. Others replanting corn. Working on other place as yesterday. Brought back the plow, I sent from home there, tonight. Fine rain, & turned quite cool very suddenly late in afternoon. Farther advice from Fredericksburg says our victory was complete. Genl Jackson lost his left arm.
- May 7. Still cool & cloudy with light rain. Hands doing little jobs this morning. Planted a little corn, hauled in a load of manure for Watermelons & planted them. Plowed Irish Potatoes & prepared a small piece of land to set out Sweet Potatoe slips. Also dug a little ditch to drain a piece of bottom land near the house which I have ready to plant in Hominy corn & peas or Beans. In the evening plows went back to the corn with others hoeing Irish Potatoes & cleaning out a ditch at the old house. On other place finished planting bottoms except about ½ acre which was too wet to plow.

- May 8 Cloudy & cool. Hands at home place plowing & boarding corn in old house new ground & replanting & hoeing. Not thinning it to a stand yet for fear of the Bud worms working on it yet. Hands planting corn for themselves in other place.
- May 9 Hands plowing out corn middles on both places & hoeing & replanting corn. Weather cool in forenoon but turned warm in evening.
- May 11 Weather warm & clear. Finished plowing the middles of our old corn at 12 O'clock. Two hands began running around cotton & one breaking branch bottom below the house. Still plowing in the corn on the other place, other hands hoeing & replanting. Have a pretty fair stand on each place, but corn is, I think, smaller than I ever saw it before at this time of the year. The sorrowful news of the death of Genl Jackson, on the 10th Inst., reached us today. A great affliction to the Confederacy.
- May 12 Hands on both places working as yesterday.
- May 14 Finished plowing my cotton about 8 o'clock this morning. Planted a piece of corn & peas & beans near the house. In afternoon two plows ridging up Potatoe ground, others working as before. On other place started the plows to throwing another furrow on the bottom corn & boarding it off. Hoe hands hoeing & replanting corn. Have a very good stand in bottoms except in very rough places. Weather cool & cloudy.
- May 15 Warmer today. Two plows siding sugar cane. One still in branch bottoms. On other place, plowing in corn again & hoeing it. Laid off tasks for hoe hands, $\frac{1}{2}$ acres to each.
- May 16 Cloudy & warm. Finished plowing sugar cane. Running around corn in house field. Finished hoeing old corn. Hoes raking up potatoe ridges. Ground getting very hard, beginning to need rain right badly.
- May 18 Hands at home working as before. On other place, plows commenced throwing out middles in bottom corn. Finished all that was up enough to plow. A large portion not up well, and I fear will not come if it does not rain soon.
- May 19 Finished plowing corn in house field & planted branch bottoms in same field. On other place, running around upland corn. Weather very dry, & warm during the day but cool nights. Most backward spring I ever saw.
- May 21 Commenced plowing in old house new ground yesterday, throwing out middles. Hoe hands commenced chopping out cotton.
- May 22 Hands working as yesterday. Finished plowing new ground corn & commenced in R R field.

- May 23 Only two plows running today, others chopping out cotton. On other place, all hands except one hoeing corn in bottoms. One finishing running around old corn.
- May 25 Two hands plowing corn in R R field, two chopping out cotton, one cutting sprouts in cotton, Dublin; and one, Lee, sick. On other place, two hands shelling corn to sell, the rest hoeing corn in bottom.
- May 26 Warm & cloudy, looking very much like rain. Finished plowing R R field yesterday & commenced on old house field in late corn. All hands hoeing in the bottoms on the other place.
- May 27 Still threatening rain. Cooler than yesterday. Hands at home working as yesterday. Started the plows on other place again this morning, throwing out middles in bottoms.
- May 28 Raining this morning. All hands at home raking up Potatoe ridges & setting out the plants. Plowing & hoeing in bottoms on the other place until 12 o'clock, then commenced putting in Peas in the upland corn, one hand dropping them on lower side of the corn in the furrow made when running around it, two covering & one running a large shovel on the upper side. One hand still hoeing in bottoms. Occasional showers of rain all day & a prospect for more during the night. Everything looking much revived. Hoed my earliest melons this evening.
- May 29 Raining again this morning. Put out some more Potatoe plants in early part of the morning. Started two plows, about 10 o'clock, to running around the old corn & the other hands to hoeing in cotton. Had to stop on acct of rain about 4 P M. All hands planting Potatoe vines until night. Working as yesterday evening on other place. Fine showers of rain during the day. Very good season in the ground.
- May 30 Warm & cloudy this morning. Two hands running around corn in the morning & planting Peas in evening. One hoeing in cotton. One, my main hoe hand, Lee, sick, has been suffering severely for more than a week with an old sore on his leg. One sprouting in branch bottoms & one dropping peas. Working as yesterday on the other place. Raining a little this evening & last night.
- June 1 Warm & clear. Crops growing finely. Started three hands to planting Peas in my Orchard lot. Bedded in rows about 2 feet wide. Drilled the peas, the "speckled" bunch peas, & covered them with a board. Also plowed my watermelon patch & Sweet & Irish potatoes. My late Irish Potatoes up finely, sweet Potatoes poorly.
- June 2 Hands commenced, one running around corn & one covering Peas again. Others working as before.

Lee still sick, causing us to get behind with our hoeing. Finished planting Peas in the uplands on other place about 12 o'clock. Commenced bedding a little piece of bottom that was too wet when we bedded the rest & too dry when we got to it again. Light showers in evening.

- June 3 Warm & cloudy with occasional showers. Hands working as yesterday except that they are now in house field. On other place planted piece of bottom & bedded yesterday, also plowed up some pieces where we had failed to get a stand & planted them over. Rebedded the ground, covered with two furrows & boarded it with an iron harrow. One hand still hoeing, one working in the wheat pulling out Rye & cackle, a great deal of both being in it. Bottom corn growing well now. Replants beginning to come up.
- June 4 Having finished planting peas in house field, two hands went over the corn again running around it on the upper side of the row. Andy plowing in branch bottoms putting one furrow in middle. Working as yesterday on other place.
- June 5 Finished plowing in house field yesterday & commenced in R R field this morning, two in cotton & one in corn running around lower side to plant peas. Finished chopping out cotton & commenced hoeing Sugar Cane. One hand, Dublin, raking up Potatoe ridges, sprouting in new ground, etc. Lee not able to do anything yet. Working as yesterday on other place. Finished planting over about 2 acres & going on plowing the corn. Two hands hoeing yet. Weather warm.
- June 6 Two hands plowing cotton yet, one dropping & one covering peas. Keep Dublin sprouting & doing little Jobs about, he not being able to do any other kind of work from some disease of the eyes. Still plowing in bottoms, three plowing & two hoeing. Weather very warm. Finished the peas in R R field at 12 o'clock & the hands went on to plowing in the cotton, the others to hoeing sugar cane.
- June 7 Fine rain near by last night but none here.
- June 8 Finished plowing cotton today about 2 o'clock. Bedded up a piece of ground for Potatoes & plowed some patches of corn near the house. Only two plows running. Commenced cutting Wheat this morning, first with two cradles & afterwards with three, my own hands & those of my brother's estate working all together. Three of mine at it. Very cool all day. Finished plowing bottom corn the first ~~time~~ about 9 o'clock. Sent the hands to plow their own patches. One hand still working at the wheat.
- June 9 Quite cool again this morning, enough so to make fire very comfortable. Still cutting wheat. The crop very good. Hear of a great deal of smut in wheat but find none at all in mine.

- July 21 Commenced threshing Wheat today. Finished & cleaned it up by night. One hand plowing in branch bottoms in house field, one hoeing in them, the rest all working with wheat. Hands on other place hoeing in them, the rest all working with wheat. Hands on other place hoeing in bottom corn. Nothing from Charleston. Had the first melon, a nutmeg melon, from my patch this evening. Vines not doing well, seem to be dying.
- July 22 Measured up my wheat this morning, 52½ bushels. Put it in a pit in Gin-house floor today. Put up one considerable pen of straw. One hand plowing & one hoeing as yesterday, the rest measuring & putting away wheat, hauling straw, etc.
- July 23 Hands plowing in old house new ground, laying by. Hoe hands in house field. Nothing from Charleston. Weather very warm.
- July 24 Finished new ground at 12 o'clock. In evening plowed patches about the house. Laid by my earliest patch of Peas & plowed the others. Very hot & dry. Corn firing badly, wants rain.
- July 25 Hands working their own patches today. On other place all hands still hoeing in bottoms. Cloudy this morning & I am in hopes we will have rain. Rain a short distance off in evening but none here.
- July 27 Hands plowing out bottom middles. Hoe hands in old corn. Rain this evening, not enough, however, to do much good. Nothing from Charleston except that our men & the Yankees are still shelling each other.
- July 28 Finished plowing cotton this morning. Two hands then commenced plowing in branch bottoms & one mowing around a patch of Peas in orchard lot, last planting. Had a fine rain in evening. Rained lightly a large part of evening. My brother, J. Mike Brice, arrived at home from the army this morning. (J. M. Brice was once a captain in the Little River Guards.)
- July 29 One plow finishing the Peas this morning. Bottoms too wet for plow. Hoe hands chopping through the corn. The balance of the hands threshing rye. Hands on other place still hoeing in bottoms.
- July 30 Warm weather. Hands hauling over & threshing out Oats. Threshed only enough for seed & to pay tax in kind, about 25 bushels in all. One hand plowing the Turnip patch. Hoe hands in corn. Two hands, on other place, helping thresh wheat. The others still hoeing. Sold my black & blind mare today for \$125 to James B. Mobley.
- July 31 Finished plowing today. Hands all went to hoeing the corn. Weather very warm. No news from Charleston.

- Aug 3 Finished working in my crop today. Shelled seven bushels of corn for Eli Dawkins in exchange for a spinning wheel & a Reel, articles in great demand now.
- Aug 4 Commenced clearing land this morning on the Wm Robinson place near the R.Rd. One hand making baskets. Finished in my crop on other place. Weather hot & dry. Corn suffering for rain. Some of it too far gone before we had rain to be benefited much, & suffering as greatly now as ever. In other parts of our District & even in a few miles of us crops have not suffered a day, in fact have had too much rain. Examined the fruit buds today, which I put in some time ago. Found a good many of them growing & doing finely. Put in others last week. Finished threshing & cleaning Wheat on other place. Our part, 1/3, amounted to 38 3/4 Bushels - 23 1/4 Mogul, 9 Gale, 6 1/2 May in all. On both places 91 1/4 Bushels.
- Aug 5 Very warm. Hands clearing, three axes from home place & one from other place. Had a nice shower of rain this evening.
- Aug 6 Raking up & hauling manure for Turnip patch & preparing it to plant. Two boys from other place working here. Women spinning.
- Aug 7 Sowed Turnip seed this morning, about half my patch. Weather very warm.
- Aug 10 Hot & dry. Crops suffering dreadfully. A large part of our corn, I do not think, can make half a crop. Six hands clearing, women spinning. Sold a lot of Rail Road wood today to F Lumpkin, dead trees in the woods & fields, not suitable for making rails & he to cut & haul it, at 75 cts per Cord.
- Aug 11 Part of the hands tearing the roof off the Wm Robinson house, to be moved home for a negro house. The rest clearing. Paid \$15.00 in Columbia for a very small pair of Wool Cards. Nothing new from Charleston. Occasional firing.
- Aug 13 Hands, my own & part from my brother's place, tearing down & moving R-n house, knocking out & saving every nail to be used again, they being very hard to get & at exorbitant prices, from 50 cts to 75 cts per lb. Weather still warm & dry.
- Aug 14 Got the house home yesterday & commenced putting it up in evening. Still working at it this morning. Sent off one hand, Adam, to work on the coast fortifications works around Charleston. The enemy still shelling our works there. Everything "in status quo." Put the hands, the men, to gathering Peaches this evening, to be distilled. Gathering them from an orchard on the other place. Had a nice shower of rain in evening. Not enough to benefit crops much. Got a pair of Cotton Cards from Wbo at \$17.00, very good ones.

- Aug. 15 Finished gathering peaches this morning. Sent them, 25 Bushels, to Beam's Still-house & beat them up. In evening sent one of my hands to feed the hogs. The women spinning. Very severe bombardment at Charleston for two nights past.
- Aug 17 A light shower of rain yesterday afternoon. Cloudy this morning & cooler than for some time. Commenced pulling fodder on both places.
- Aug 18 Finished pulling all the fodder that is ready, this morning. Hauled up what was taken off yesterday. Hands cutting down some pieces of corn in evening, to cure stock & all. Still pulling on other place.
- Aug 19 Sent two hands to the other place to pull fodder. Two others fixing fence & gathering up our hogs, which are out of the field & scattered all over the place. One hand, Dublin, sick. Very severe bombardment at Charleston again, both by land & water.
- Aug 20 Hands still pulling fodder on other place. Two cleaning out the barn, packing away fodder. Hauled a load of fodder yesterday & one today from other place.
- Aug 21 Appointed by Predt Davis as a day of fasting, humiliation & prayer. Bombardment at Charleston still going on severely.
- Aug. 22 Hands pulling & tyeing fodder on other place again. Sent one hand on the hunt of some of my hogs.
- Aug 24 Very light rain yesterday evening. Cloudy this morning. All hands pulling fodder except two who are hauling & packing it up. Stirring times in Charleston. Fort Sumter is badly impaired by the enemy's shots, in fact is almost a site of rubbish. Only a few guns are left in the fort & a small garrison. A few shells have been thrown into the city without warning or notice, from a battery five miles distant. Notice has since been given Genl Beauregard by Genl Gilmore that unless the city & our Morris Island works, which are yet unimpaired, were surrendered by 11 o'clock Sunday night the 23d inst, he would shell the city. Batteries Wagner & Gregg having stood the pounding of the enemy for several weeks now, will, with Forts Moultrie, Johnson & other works, offer an obstinate & I hope, successful resistance to the enemy yet. A fine rain this evening. Looked after my hogs; have got them all again except one & I fear I will never find it.
- Aug 25 The enemy still throwing a few shells into the city. Very little damage done up to yesterday morning. Cloudy & very warm today. Sowed the balance of my Turnip patch today, plowed middles out of late peas. Rest of hands pulling fodder. Stopped two hands in evening to measure up some wheat, on other place - did not hold out with former measurement; as well however as I expected.

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Turnips, Peas etc suffering.

- Sept. 5 Hauled two loads of fodder this morning. Had no rain. Warm & clear. Finished fodder in old house field except part of the negroes' patches. Went to the Still-house in the evening for my Brandy. Got 4½ Gallons, after paying 1/3 to the Stiller, out of something over twenty bushels of peaches. Very good turn out. Everything pretty quiet about Charleston.
- Sept 7 Warm & cloudy. Light sprinkle of rain. Finished pulling fodder at home except branch bottoms in house field not ready. Cut down a load of corn & hauled up to feed on. Hauled up all the fodder except that pulled this morning.
- Sept. 8 Commenced pulling fodder in bottoms on other place. Warm & clear. On the night of the 6th inst our forces evacuated Batteries Gregg & Wagner & in fact the whole of Morris' Island after a severe bombardment by the enemy's vessels & land batteries & an assault on Wagner, which was repulsed. The enemy landed in barges near Cunningham Point to assault our works and were driven back, it is supposed, with heavy loss. Heard today that I was appointed a commissioner of Roads for Fairfield District.
- Sept. 9 Tied up a piece of fodder around the old house, negro patches, first thing. From that to pulling in bottoms again. Dublin still cutting hay. Hauled a load of fodder out of bottoms in evening. The Yankee Monitors bombarding Sumter again & our works on Sullivan's Island. Admiral Dahlgren demanded the surrender of Fort Sumter but was told by Genl Beauregard that he could have it when he took & held it.
- Sept. 10 Two hands packing away fodder & hauling hay this morning. Will keep them busy now hauling & packing. The others working as yesterday. Hauled up one load of fodder but found it too green to pack away. At 1½ o'clock yesterday morning the enemy made bold attempt to carry Fort Sumter by assault. They approached in about 50 barges & succeeded in landing a part of their forces on the ruins, but after 15 minutes contest, in which our troops fought principally with brickbats & hand grenades, the Yankees were repulsed with the loss of 18 commissioned officers, 102 Rank & File prisoners, stacks of colors & four fine barges. No casualties on our side, our men having good cover. Their loss in killed & wounded not known. One of the Flags taken was the original Flag of Sumter which Major Anderson was compelled to lower & which Dahlgren hoped to replace. The fort was garrisoned by the Charleston battalion & commanded by Major Stephen Elliott.
- Sept. 11 All hands pulling fodder except two, Lee sick & Dublin cutting hay. All quiet about Charleston at last acctts.

- Sept. 12 Hauled up two loads of fodder. Commenced tying & hauling about 11 o'clock this morning. Pulling before that, & after finishing tying all that was ready. Will take several days yet to finish pulling. Was called on today to go with a party to search a house in the neighborhood, James Neals', for a pair of cards & other things stolen from a negro house of G H Miller's. The house was broken open by a negro belonging to Calvin Brice who, it is supposed, took the cards & traded them to Neal. Under authority of a search warrant we examined the house & found the cards. Neal refused to give any acct of them, but Miller identified the cards. We then called a meeting of the neighborhood, which meeting resolved that Jim Neal should have until 12 o'clock next Thursday to leave the state. If not to be dealt with according to the usage "Judge Lynch." Another meeting is appointed for Thursday morning to make up money to defray his expenses & provide something for his family to live on for a while. It was generally thought that if he were tried by law he would probably be only imprisoned a while & turned loose on the community again & that this is no time for trifling with such characters. The sentence was agreed to by every man in the meeting except one, John Mobley, Sr., on whose place the accused lives & who thought he should be citizen prosecuted or whipped & turned loose. (John Mobley, Sr. lived at Oakland west of Woodward. His granddaughter Nancy Jones (Love) Mobley, married the son of Robert Wade Brice, Richardson Walker Brice.)
- Sept 14 Warm & cloudy. Hauled up one load & a half of fodder & half a load of hay. Still pulling in bottoms. All quiet at C-n except occasional firing from our Batteries. A great many troops passing down the Charlotte R Rd every day for several days. Longstreet's Corps, going to reinforce Bragg in Tennessee. Our boys, 6th Regt, are expected along tomorrow.
- Sept. 15 Finished the fodder on this side of the creek. All hands pulling except Lee & Lucy, who are sick.
- Sept 16 Commenced stripping Sugar Cane this morning. Hauled two loads in evening to Tom Boulware's mill. Have Mrs. Watson's wagon team & driver helping me. Spent the day at Blackstock's looking for friends in the 6th S C Regt. A large crowd there all day awaiting the Regiment. It came along about 10 o'clock at night. Found my brothers & friends generally well. Nothing new from Charleston today. Fine rain this evening.
- Sept. 17 Raining this morning. Hauling & stripping cane. Hauled two loads. Had to stop work about 12 o'clock on account of rain which continued all day. Put the women to spinning & the men to packing away fodder, shelling corn etc. Have a good deal of fodder down in the rain. Afraid it will be injured. My brother John came up today on furlough for a day or two. The Regt. has gone on.
- Sept. 18 Working on my cane again. Each of the wagons hauled two loads today.

- Sept. 19 Pulling, tieing, & hauling fodder. Found that which was out in the rain blackened or hurt very little. It was hung on the stalk. Hauled two loads. All quiet at C-n. The Yankee vessels, fearing the Equinoctial storms, have been out of sight for a few days, in smooth water, but have taken their old positions. Quite cold this morning, nearly cold enough for frost.
- Sept 21 A little frost this morning. Not enough to do any damage. The first I ever knew in September. Hauled four loads of cane today. Have one Bl of Syrup, 40 Gals., already filled.
- Sept 22 Hauled six loads of cane. Paid my Tax of Wheat today, 8½ Bu. Found on second measurement that I made about 84 or 85 Bu. News today of a terrible battle in Tenn. between Bragg & Rosencrans. The fighting commenced on Saturday, 19th inst. & still continues.
- Sept 23 Commenced pulling fodder again today. Fodder so badly hurt there is not much to pull. Wagon hauling cane for Mrs. Watson in evening. Good news from Tenn today. After three days hard fighting the enemy has been driven back with great loss. We took some six thousand Prisoners, forty pieces of Artillery & a large number of small arms. Our loss has also been very large. Among our officers wounded are Genls. Hood & Deshler, killed. Our killed & wounded are estimated now at 15000. Our cavalry at last accounts were in pursuit of the enemy, who were flying in confusion, after having destroyed large quantities of Stores, baggage, etc. Weather still cool.
- Sept. 24 Working as yesterday. Commenced sunning my wheat today. I fear it will be badly injured by the weevils. Am trying to prevent it by sunning & smearing the boxes, in which it is put, with tar. Finished the fodder in bottoms today. Made a return to the Confederate Tax Assessor of Fairfield Dist., Daniel Kirkland. The tax will be collected soon. All quiet at C-n. Nothing from the West. Our boys, Jenkin's Brigade, did not get on in time for the fight. It is thought Rosencranz will make a stand at Chattanooga, where he is, reinforced by Burnside.
- Sept. 25 Negroes pulling their own fodder.
- Sept. 26 Pulling fodder in branch bottom near the house, also cutting off the tops. Weather still quite cool. Hauled up one load.
- Sept 28 Finished pulling & hauling fodder today at last. Commenced stripping Sugar Cane in evening. Sent one hand, Edwin, to McCullough's factory to get some thread. Sent about two weeks ago but failed to get it. All quiet at Charleston. The enemy strengthens his works on Morris Island every day.

- Sept. 29 The weather continues cool. Hands stripping Cane. No news from the West. Many rumors but nothing reliable. Finished sunning Wheat today. Have 37 Bushels on hand.
- Sept 30 Commenced hauling sugar cane again, with my own & the wagons from my brother's place. Hauled two loads each. Brought home another Bbl syrup, 42 Gallons. Excellent syrup.
- Oct 1 Both wagons hauling again this morning, one hauling poles for a shelter for hay & shucks, the other hauling sugar cane seed. Hauled two heavy loads of the seed. My wagon hauling negroes' cane in evening. The women stripping their cane. Genl Bragg's official dispatches say he took in the late battle, Chickamauga, between 8000 & 10000 Prisoners & 50 pieces of Artillery. No news from the West or from Charleston. Heard of the death of Walker Vinson, Co C, 2nd S C regt, who fell in the battle of Chickamauga. (Walker Vinson was the son of Mrs. Martha Matilda Watson by an earlier marriage and therefore half brother-in-law of Robert Wade Brice.)
- Oct. 2 Finished hauling cane & moved over two families of negroes from the other place. Left one family, not having a house ready. Drove home, also, 2 cows & calves, 2 yearlings, & 2 sheep. Weather warmer. Had fine rain last night. Rcd a fine pig today from Wm Nicholson.
- Oct 3 Finished moving the negroes & effects this morning. Commenced picking Cotton yesterday evening. Six hands picking. The others hauling boards & rails & working on the hay shelter in lot etc. One of my hands Adam got right severely hurt this evening by falling from the wagon & being run over by one wheel.
- Oct 5 All hands except two picking cotton. Dublin cutting hay & Mary staying with Adam, who is pretty badly, but I hope, not dangerously hurt.
- Oct 6 Commenced pulling & hauling corn. Hauled in only two loads, having a crib to clean out before starting. Began in old house field. Nothing new from Charleston or the West.
- Oct 7 Hauled four loads corn. Turning off very lightly, scarcely half as much as was gathered from the same ground last year.
- Oct. 8 Hands still working at the corn. Hauled three loads today. Got nine loads only from the same land from which I got fourteen last year. Weather warm. Light rain last night.
- Oct 9 Finished pulling old house field corn. Hauled -- loads today. Did not quite finish hauling. Adam out again today & nearly recovered from his hurt. Weather cool again.

- Oct 10 Women, except Mary, who is still spinning, picking peas, the boys killing a beef & hauling in Negroes' corn in forenoon. Sent the wagon to mill in evening, Edwin to Tan Yard. One hand, Lee, shucking, shelling & measuring negroes' corn. It measures ten Bushels, six of them. The other two boys, Adam & Andy, picking Peas. Pea crop very poor. Lost one of my sheep yesterday. Died from being altered, I think. Weather pleasant.
- Oct 12 Hands picking peas in forenoon & cotton in evening. Attended a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Roads in Winnsboro.
- Oct 13 Part of the hands picking cotton; balance, Lee, Dublin, & Adam, hauling home a crib from the Wm. Robinson place.
- Oct. 14 Hands picking cotton & putting up the crib. Weather cool & cloudy all day. Warmer in evening & raining a little. No news from our armies.
- Oct 15 Raining all day. Hands spinning, shelling Sugar Cane seed etc. Sent one, Adam, to help dig a grave for a negro of Mrs. Watson's who died last night.
- Oct 30 Have been sick since my last writing. A bilious attack. The hands, in the meantime, have finished picking over the cotton & been gathering corn. Finished hauling from the bottoms on other place yesterday. They turned off pretty well. Got 27½ wagon loads. Gathering the uplands now. My boy, Adam, who was working on the coast defenses, got home on Friday night the 13th inst. having been gone since the 14th of Aug. last. There is another call on our District for labor for the 16th Nov. Have had right cold weather & light frosts for some days. Warmer today & threatening rain.
- Nov 3 Finished hauling corn. Made 51 wagonloads & the negroes 2 loads. Averaging my load at 14 bushels I made a little more than 700 Bushels. A light crop. Of these 37 loads came from the other place. Weather warm.
- Nov 4 Commenced digging sweet potatoes this morning. Turning off very lightly.
- Nov 6 Finished my potatoes yesterday. Measured & pitted them away today. Had 55½ Bushels. Hands picking peas in other place. Weather warm.
- Nov 7 Considerable change in weather; cooler this morning. Women picking peas, except one who is spinning. The boys covering Potatoe pits, putting away shucks, etc. The Yankees still bombarding Fort Sumter & other works about Charleston.
- Nov. 9 White frost this morning. Hands picking peas on other place.
- Nov 10 Women picking peas at home. Two of the boys hauling wood, the others putting up shucks & gathering up corn where we shucked it.

Had my hogs brought up this evening to separate the killing hogs from the others. Finished the peas at home.

- Nov. 11 Put up part of my hogs this morning; couldn't get them all. Will have seventeen to kill. Hands picking peas in other place again in morning; finished against 12 o'clock. Dug Irish Potatoes in evening.
- Nov. 12 Started four plows this morning in old house field, plowing out corn stalks to sow wheat. The women picking cotton. Lee digging Pinders & Dublin cutting posts for my grape vines.
- Nov 14 Finished preparing my wheat land & will commence sowing Monday. Weather warm & cloudy. Light sprinkle of rain about 12 o'clock.
- Nov. 16 Commenced sowing wheat; sowing Gale Wheat first. Having no Blue Stone, I am pouring it slowly into a tub of water & skimming off that which does not sink. This is recommended by some persons as equal to soaking in Blue Stone to prevent Rust. Four plows putting in wheat. Women picking cotton. Lee sowing wheat, Dublin cleaning up brush before the plows. Weather cool again. Considerable frost this morning.
- Nov. 17 Cloudy & cool. Finished sowing Gale Wheat. Sowed two bushels of it. Sent off, this evening five Bushels of corn & twenty-two lbs of Bacon to be exchanged for Iron, Mrs. Watson & myself sending to the iron works, she furnishing the driver & two mules & I two mules & the wagon. Mr Jeff Hemphill is going along in charge of a number of wagons. I do not know yet what works they are going to.
- Nov 18 Only two plows putting in wheat today. One plowing up the negroes' potatoes. Finished picking over the cotton yesterday. Two women digging their Potatoes, the others spinning. Dublin & Andy burning logs etc, & Lee sowing wheat. A light frost this morning.
- Nov. 19 Three hands plowing in wheat. Were stopped all the forenoon in putting out fire in the woods on Crooked Creek. Other hands working as they were yesterday except that all the women are spinning today. The Tax Assessor, Kirkland, for Fairfield District was at Youngesville today, assessing horses & cattle. All cattle are valued & horses not used in agriculture, and a tax of one per cent laid on their valuation. My cows, of every age twenty in number were valued at \$100.00 a head, my horse at \$1000.00, a bay pony two years old, Chicora. at \$400 & a mule colt seven months old at \$300.00, making a tax of \$37.00. An account was also taken of all cattle sold during the year. I returned two, one sold at \$100.00 & one at \$50.00, both sold to government. Weather warm & dry. Needing rain badly. (Youngesville is now known as Woodward.)

1863

- Nov. 20 Four hands plowing in wheat, getting along slowly, using very small plows. bull tongues. Mr. Hemphill being sick, our wagon did not go farther on the way to the Iron Works than Chester & got home last night. This morning we started the wagon again to the Cherokee Works, sending a Negro of Mrs. Watson's, Ed, to do the trading. Light rain today. Yankees shelling Charleston again; have done no harm yet. They are still bombarding Sumter, with little effect, however.
- Nov 21 Hands working as yesterday. Raining a little all day. Heard today that one on my brothers, either Mike or Thomas, was severely wounded in a fight near Knoxville, Tenn., on Monday night. Father will go on in a few days. (Father in this case is Dr. Walter Brice.)
- Nov 24 Hands working as at last writing. Our wagon got back from the Iron Works Sunday night. I got 128 lbs of Iron. They gave eight pounds iron for one bushel corn & four pounds of Iron for one of Bacon. Father & Uncle Sam started on to Tenn. today. Heard with sorrow that Thomas is badly wounded in the right eye the ball lodging in the roof of his mouth. Robt Brice severely wounded in leg. R Caheen killed. The fight occurred in the neighborhood of Knoxville. Weather warm & raining a little all day.
- Nov 25 Cloudy this morning but cleared off in forenoon. Finished sowing wheat at 12 o'clock. Plowing out corn stalks in afternoon. One hand, Dublin, cutting logs around the house for R R wood. Weather turning colder this evening.
- Nov 26 Commenced sowing winter oats, black. White frost & quite cold this morning. News of a great battle near Chattanooga, Tenn., fought yesterday. Our troops falling back to Chicamauga. The enemy throwing a few shells into Charleston, doing but little damage.
- Nov. 27 Working as yesterday. Weather warmer & cloudy. No news from the army in Tenn.
- Nov 28 Rain last night & continues lightly this morning. Commenced plowing in oats, but stopped about 10 o'clock & went to packing fodder, the fodder tithe for government, which consumed the balance of the day. Packed three bales weighing something more than 700 lbs.
- Nov 30 A bitter cold day, ground frozen hard. Hands plowing but getting on slowly. One of the women picking the last of the cotton, the others spinning. Dublin cutting R R wood.
- Dec 1 Very cold. Ground frozen too hard to plow. Put the boys to cutting & splitting logs about the house. Plowing in evening. Heard from Father today. He is in Atlanta, Ga., & is not allowed to go farther. Bragg's army falling back to Dalton, Ga., followed by the enemy.

In the battle of the 25th near Chattanooga, our left wing was driven back in confusion, but our right wing, under Hardee, stood firm, repulsed four assaults from Sherman's Corps of Yankees, and finally drove them in disorder across the Tenn River, capturing all their Artillery & a great many prisoners. The fight was brought on by the enemy for the purpose of gaining Lookout Mountain, which they took, by our troops on the left giving way. Our loss in prisoners, about 5000, & Artillery, about 50 pieces, on the left was made up by our captures on the right. The Yankee loss in killed & wounded greater than ours. Reports from Knoxville say the place, with Burnside's army, is closely invested by Longstreet's troops.

- Dec 2 Not quite so cold this morning. Finished plowing in black oats at 12 o'clock. All hands shelling the tax corn in evening.
- Dec 4 Weather moderating considerably. Two hands covering a negro house, the others still shelling corn. News from the West that another fight took place above Dalton between the rear of our army under Genl Cleburne & the advance of the enemy, in which the Yankees were worsted. Since this the Yankee army is retreating toward Chattanooga. Meade's army in Virginia also retreating without any general engagement.
- Dec 5 Finished shelling my tax corn & delivered it at the Depot, 58 Bushels. Latest news from the West represent Longstreet as retreating from Knoxville through Va after having made an unsuccessful attack on the place. I fear our wounded will fall into the hands of the enemy. There is no exchange of prisoners now & it seems there is no chance of arranging an exchange soon.
- Dec 7 Commenced sowing Rye. Five plows going. Weather cooler than for several days.
- Dec 9 Weather warmer again, very changeable. Still plowing in Rye. Four women spinning. Dublin cutting cordwood until 12 o'clock, & preparing to plant some Grape vines in evening, digging holes & putting up posts.
- Dec 11 Finished sowing Rye in old house field about 9 o'clock this morning. Took my Tax Rye & Oats to Blackstocks. Four of the boys cutting up wood for hog-killing, the other two hauling rails around the lot fence. Weather cool & cloudy, looking like rain or snow.
- Dec. 12 A damp morning, occasional showers of rain. Hands hauling rails, putting up a cow shelter & raking up leaves to haul into the house lot for making manure, in the forenoon. In afternoon two boys hauling a load of Wheat Straw from Mrs. Watson's, to put on cow shelter. Raining nearly all evening.

- Dec 14 Weather a little cloudy & cool. One hand splitting rails. Two boys & the women, three of them & the other two, spinning, raking & hauling leaves into the house lot. The others cutting wood.
- Dec 15 (This entry is written in another handwriting.) The weather cool & clear. Two hands splitting rails, five plowing in Rye for pasture in Wm Robinson place, one sowing Rye, one chopping & two spinning. Attended a sale of property of Alex Hindman deceased. Bought set of Blacksmith tools for \$51.00. Property sold very high.
- Dec 16 Weather warmer. Sent two boys with the wagon for my Blacksmith tools this morning. Two women spinning; two others, Mary & Lucy, spinning regularly now. The balance of the hands cleaning up in pasture field in morning. In afternoon started four plows, sowing Rye again.
- Dec 17 Rained all night last night. Continues today. Hands shelling corn & sugar cane seed & spinning. Very little news from our armies. Have heard nothing from my brother Thom & fear he has fallen into the hands of the Enemy.
- Dec 18 Turned very cold last night. The women spinning & the boys hauling cotton to the Gin house or other place in the forenoon. Killed two hogs this afternoon. Hung them up at night in the smoke house.
- Dec 19 Very cold. Hands cutting up & salting away meat, cleaning entrails, drying up lard etc during the morning. My hogs weighed, on the average, 140½ lbs. Most of them were very young. They yielded a little more than a gallon of lard to the hog. In afternoon, all the hands not being necessary to work with the meat etc., sent two of the women to clearing up in pasture field, two boys with the wagon with oats to Depot, & two others to shelling sugar cane seed.
- Dec 20 Was very much & agreeably surprised at the arrival last night of my brother Thom & Robert Brice. They got here about 3 o'clock, having come down on the train. Both getting on very well. Thom's right eye completely destroyed & the ball lodged in his face. They travelled about 300 miles, principally on foot. Came from Knoxville by way of Bristol & Wytheville, Va. thence to Statesville, N C & then home by R Rd.
- Dec. 21 Weather still cold. One hand splitting rails, the others hauling cotton & shelling cane seed until the ground thaws enough to plow. Plowing in Rye in evening, five plows.
- Dec 22 A little warmer today. Hands working as yesterday. Considerable change in the weather this evening, much warmer & cloudy. Had the wagon & driver, Sam, from other place hauling R R wood today & I put one of my women, who has been spinning, in his place. Hauled seven loads, about seven cords.

~~1869~~
Dec 23

1863

Cold again this morning. Finished plowing in Rye at 12 o'clock. Put the hands that were plowing, the women, to shelling cane seed & two boys to hauling boards from the old Robinson house. Adam & Adam Henderson cutting cord wood all day, also Dublin in Morning. In evening Lee & Dublin cutting & sawing board timber.

Dec. 24

A cold day. Two hands hauling cord wood, two getting board timber. Two boys sent to mill & doing other little jobs, & the women shelling cane seed again.

Dec 29

The Christmas holidays over. Hands at work this morning. Had heavy rains during the holidays. One hand splitting rails today, three cutting cord wood, & two sawing board timber in morning & cording wood on the R Rd in evening. The women shelling cane seed, except Sarah, who is sick, has Pneumonia & is quite sick. Weather cloudy, but not cold.

Dec 30

Commenced ginning this morning, Dublin feeding the gin. Phoebe hauling cotton & Andy & Edwin driving. Lee & Adam cutting cord wood. Henderson sick. Lucy Adaline & Mary spinning. Sarah still sick, a little better today. Weather cloudy.

Dec 31

Rained all night last night & continues this morning, raining constantly. Hands working as yesterday except that Lee is shelling cane seed & Adam gone to examine watergaps. Raining almost continuously all day.

1864

April 23

Finished planting cotton & planted a piece of Flint or Hominy corn, also a piece of sugar cane in same R R field. I put in an application today, at the Enrolling office in Wbo, for a detail as an Agriculturist. The law allows Farmers & Planters, working five or more field hands, between the ages of sixteen & fifty years, details or exemptions, by furnishing a certain quantity of provision to the Govt. Those working fifteen hands are exempt by giving a bond, of twice the value of provisions to be furnished, that they will furnish one hundred pounds of Bacon & one hundred pounds of Beef to the Govt in twelve months at government prices & sell all of their surplus produce to Government. Those having less than fifteen hands down to five have to make special application for details, and if the detail is granted, have to give a similar bond; but are allowed a deduction of five pounds of Bacon & Beef for each hand under fifteen. I have eight hands, and if my application is granted will have to furnish 520 pounds of Bacon & the same of Beef. These exemptions & details last 12 months & the authorities, it is said, are anxious for men to take them, as in this way the army will be better supplied.

April 25

Rain yesterday & last night. Plow hands ridging up ground for sugar cane & splitting out middles as they go, in the morning. Other hands cleaning out some ditches. In evening planting sugar cane seeds in same ground I have planted last year.

April 26

Four plows plowing up & planting over corn in Steele field half a day. Found it still coming up & quit it at 12 o'clock. Sent the plows on to bedding up the bottoms on the creek. One hand plowing at home, breaking up patches which we cleaned up in house field. The other hands cutting briars & bushes along the creek.

April 27

Hands working as yesterday evening. Weather very fine.

April 29

Delightful weather. Every thing growing finely. Hands working as at last writing. Showery during the evening & at night.

April 30

Went to Wbo today. Heard from the Enrolling Officer, Capt Withers, that my application for a detail could not be approved by him as I was reported, by the Medical Board, for active service & as he was not allowed to approve of a detail of an able bodied man with less than fifteen hands. Had an application drawn up for a detail as Manager of my own & Mrs. Watson's hands, of whom I have had partial management for some time, making in all sixteen hands between the required ages. I know that I am not fit for active service & make this application because I feel that I can serve my Government better at home than in the army. The policy, adopted by our authorities, of putting every able man into the army, I fear, will be our ruin yet. If my application is granted I will have to furnish 1600 lbs of Bacon & 1600 of Beef to Govt.

1865

- May 2 A fine day for the growing crops & for bringing up seed etc., warm & showery. Had my sheep sheared today, 9 old sheep & 3 lambs; did not shear the lambs, however. Got — lbs. of wool from the 9. Finished bedding corn land on this side of the creek. Planted some Melon seed this morning. Cool this evening.
- May 3 Frost this morning, enough to kill the Irish Potatoe tops. Commenced planting corn, with two drills, in the bottoms on this side of the creek. One hand bedding branch bottoms in house field. Bought four shoats, very poor, from old Mr. Beam. Gave him corn & wheat, 2 bushels corn or one of Wheat for a shoat weighing 35 or 40 pounds.
- May 4 A light frost again, a beautiful day. Turned much warmer again during the day. Finished planting on this side of the creek.
- May 5 Four plows bedding over the creek, one still at home. Two hands shucking & shelling corn for seed & bread. The rest cleaning up on creek bank. Weather warm.
- May 6 Hands working as yesterday. Two of them shucking some corn, which my sister Martha Brice has sold & I have engaged to shell & sack. Bought two more shoats for four bushels & three pecks wheat, to be paid out of the growing crop.
- May 7 Only three plows running. Two mules at mill in morning & driving to buggy in evening. The plows bedding in bottoms still. Ground very hard, can only scratch it. The other hands cleaning off creek banks & shucking corn. Weather very dry & warm. Heard of fighting going on in Va. Commenced on Thursday last.
(The fighting refers to the battle of the Wilderness.)
- May 9 Finished bedding the creek bottoms, except a small piece, too hard, at 12 o'clock & commenced planting in evening, with two drills. One hand bedding Branch bottoms at home, the others chopping corn & cleaning out the creek. The fighting still going on in Va. Our forces have driven the enemy at every attack. Genl M Jenkins is killed, Longstreet wounded severely in shoulder. Stafford mortally wounded. We have captured a large number of prisoners, among them are Genl's. Seymour & Shaler. The fight commenced not far from Chancellorsville. We have good news from the Trans-Mississippi. On the 8th, 9th & 10th April ult. Genls. Dick Taylor & Kirby Smith defeated Banks, routed him with great loss, capturing about twenty pieces of Artillery, two hundred & fifty wagons, several thousand prisoners etc. At last accounts Banks was shut up in Alexandria & Taylor had demanded a surrender. On the 28th ult. yet another great victory was gained in the same department by Genl Price over Genl Steele. Price captured Steele's wagon train & a large part of his Artillery. Our prospects are brightening rapidly.

1864

1864

- May 10 One hand working in Blacksmith shop, others working as yesterday. Finished planting bottoms in the evening & plowed a little in the corn, two furrows in the middles. A dispatch from Genl Lee dated the 9th inst. says the enemy were again repulsed on Sunday. On Saturday the 7th inst. another fight took place between Richmond & Petersburg Va. in which the enemy were repulsed with a loss of one thousand killed & wounded.
(The latter fight was the beginning of Butler's attempt to push up the James River, resulting in his being bottled up in Bermuda Hundred.)
- May 11 One hand still plowing in branch bottom & patches in the same. One chopping, cutting trees out of creek, the others shucking & shelling corn. Cloudy & light sprinkles of rain during the day, a fine rain at night. No more particulars from the battles.
- May 12 Still raining a little this morning, ground too wet to plow. All hands shucking & shelling corn. Finished it, 66 bushels, at 12 o'clock. Rain nearly all evening, several hard showers.
- May 13 Rained a great deal last night. The water courses as full as I ever saw them. Hands fixing fences & water gaps & working in ditches which were broken. One hand plowing in evening, bedding up orchard to plant peas. Ground very wet. My bottom corn coming up finely. The bottoms hurt considerably by the freshet, Mrs. Watson's badly injured. A great many rumors from the seats of war. Nothing reliable. Some fighting still going on.
- May 14 Showery & warm. The negroes planting their own patches today.
- May 15 Raining a little. Weather warm.
- May 16 The plow hands bedding up Potatoe patches this morning, the others raking up the beds with hoes. In evening plowing corn in house field, putting two furrows with large shovels. Ground still wet. Another battle is reported to have been fought near Petersburg Va. in which the enemy were driven to their Gun-Boats. Beauregard commanding our forces. No particulars given, in fact no certainty that a battle has been fought. Rain again this evening.
- May 17 Two hands plowing corn in Steele field, three furrows with shovels. Two planting some patches of Peas & Sugar Cane in house field & one planting over a piece of corn, new ground, in same field. Hoe hands replanting & thinning corn, new ground, in same field. In evening two other plows went to Steele field. Weather warm & still cloudy. Heavy shower late in evening.
- May 18 Ground too wet to plow in the corn this morning. Breaking up planting patches of Peas & corn near the house. Also prepared & planted a small patch of sugar cane. Sent one hand to the creek to fix a water gap.

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In evening plows went back to the corn, one breaking up a piece of Broom straw bottoms in house field. The hoe hands in Steele field today. Interesting news from our armies. On Monday, the 16th inst., Beauregard whipped the enemy near Petersburg with great slaughter. Genl Lee has also defeated Grant again, causing him to desert his Hospital & a great many of his wounded, leaving his dead unburied & deserting a number of Gun carriages & Caissons. The Yankees acknowledged a loss of 35,000 men & _____ officers. Fighting has also been going on near Dalton, Ga. for some days, our troops successful so far. The surrender of Yankee Genl Banks to Kirby Smith at Alexandria La confirmed, but not official, & doubted still. Also a fight between Morgan & the Yankee Raider Averill at Wytheville Va. at which Averill was used up, cut to pieces.

- May 19 Hands working as yesterday evening. Light shower of rain again this evening. Plow hands finished Steele piece.
- May 20 Plows on other place, bedding a piece of bottom that was too hard to plow before, and then plowing upland corn, two furrows with large shovels. One plow at home plowing up & replanting a piece of corn in house field. Hoe hands finished Steele field & raked up some Potatoe beds. Nothing more from the army in Va. Genl. Joe Johnson in Ga has been fighting for some time around Dalton & although repelling every assault of the enemy has been compelled to fall back gradually, the enemy's forces being so great as to enable him to overlap both flanks of our army. Great confidence is placed in Genl Johnson & it is hoped & believed that he is tolling the enemy on & will be successful whenever a general engagement comes on. Banks' surrender not officially confirmed. Reported that he has escaped with the remnant of his army.
- May 21 Three plows going today, planting the piece of cotton land bedded yesterday & plowing in the corn again. One hand at mill nearly all day. Two hands hoeing corn in house & R R field, the others on creek place. Commenced putting my bay mare, Jessie, to the horse again on the 16th inst. Traded a colt, Chicora, a very small pony, for a young Bull & four hogs. Weather very warm.
- May 23 Four plows in creek place in the corn, one at home breaking up ground for peas, sugar cane etc, & plowing patches of corn. One hoe hand hoeing Hominy corn in R R field, the rest on the creek place. Heard with sorrow today that young friend & neighbor, Charles Montgomery, Co F 12th Regt S C Vols., was killed in one of the fights in Va. Also that George & Henry Brice were prisoners. Have heard nothing from my brothers.
- May 24 Hands working as yesterday. Weather very warm. Some appearance of rain.

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One hand at mill with wagon & two mules in morning, & in evening went to the tan yard with two dog-skins, killed yesterday. In evening three plows splitting out corn middles on their place, too wet in bottoms. One breaking up cowpen for a turnip patch. Hoe hands in cotton except one getting some seed corn for replanting in bottoms, moving shucks etc.

- June 6 Four hands in bottoms. One finishing Turnip patch & breaking up a piece of ground & planting some late Irish Potatoes.
- June 7 Received the sorrowful intelligence, last night, that my Brother John M Brice, Co H 6th S C Vols., was killed on the 3d inst in a fight near Cold Harbor at Gaines' Mill Va. He was shot through the head, while carrying orders, I suppose, as he was Brigade Courier. Have heard no particulars of his death except that he was shot through the head. Plows in bottoms, one running around corn in house field. Having a great deal of corn to plant over in the bottoms, some of it rooted up by hogs & some washed up & drowned out by the freshet. Plowing the corn & planting over, where it is missing, as we go. Four hoe hands in bottoms, one at home in Sugar cane & the two little girls cutting some Rye out of the Wheat & Oats. Dublin cutting a ditch in the branch below the house. Slight rain today.
- June 10 Still plowing & hoeing in bottom corn. One plow & three hoes in Potatoe patch. Find my Potatoes did not come up well.
- June 11 Finished plowing in bottoms at 12 o'clock. Plow hands plowing their patches in evening. Other hands working as for some days. Commenced raining late in the evening & continuing into the night.
- June 13 Raining all day yesterday & showery today. Ground very wet. One of the boys at mill with sugar-cane seed, the others cutting R R wood in morning & in evening packing tax cotton. Packed Mr. Woodward's at his plantation near me, & mine together. My Brother who was killed on 3rd inst. was shot in a skirmish with the enemy. He had been acting as a courier for Col Bratton, who was in command of the Brigade for some time, but had returned to his company about a week before his death. The company was on Pickett & occupying rifle-pits, but a charge having been made by the enemy, the company found it necessary for them to fall back, which they did under a heavy fire. Johnnie was shot before leaving the pits, the ball passing through his upper lip & going out at the back of his head. He lived only a few minutes & though conscious could not speak. His body was recovered next day by his friends & buried. His comrades all unite in saying that no nobler or braver soldier had ever offered the sacrifice of his life for his country. His bravery, so well tested on many hard fought fields, together with his many other noble qualities had endeared him to his company, so much so that one of his company, in writing of him, says the life of no other man in the company would have been felt so much.

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 June 14. Cloudy & damp this morning. The boys hauling cottonseed from the Gin-house home this morning, the other hands in the sugar cane, hoeing & thinning out. Dublin still working at the ditch. Four hands plowing middles out of the negroes' corn in evening.
- June 15 Four hands plowing in the negro patches again until 12 o'clock & running around corn in evening. One plow in Potatoe patch, also three hoes. Balance of the hoes in the creek bottoms. Corn growing finely, although very small for this time of year. War news still quite exciting. Skirmishing nearly every day in Va. & Ga. A few days since a very bold attempt was made by the enemy's cavalry to take Petersburg Va, which came near being successful, but reinforcements having arrived at an opportune moment, they were repulsed. Grant's army moving down the Chickahominy to the James River.
- June 16 One hand planting Peas, one of the little girls dropping them. Others working as yesterday. The enemy made another determined effort against Petersburg yesterday and were successful in taking some of the outer works & two pieces of Artillery. In Mississippi Genl Forrest has given the enemy a severe drubbing, killing & wounding 1000 & capturing some 3000 Prisoners, 250 wagons loaded with stores, about 20 pieces of Artillery & a large lot of small arms. Strong hopes are entertained that Forrest will soon turn up in the rear of Sherman's army in Ga. On the 15th Lieut-Genl Polk was killed by a chance shot. On the 5th inst. Genl Wm E. Jones of Va was killed in a fight near Staunton Va in which our troops were repulsed with considerable loss, the result of a panic in the 60th Va Regmt.
 (The battle in which Forrest was engaged was the battle of Brice's CrossRoads, fought June 10th. The battle near Staunton, fought June 5th, was the battle of Piedmont. An account of this engagement is included in Conquest of a Valley, by Marshall Moore Brice, grandson of Robert Wade Brice.)
- June 17 One plow in Steele field putting another furrow in the corn. No change in working of other hands. Finished hoeing Potatoes, those that were planted.
- June 18 Stopped all the plows this morning to haul & load some cotton to Blackstocks. Sold the remainder of my crop of 1863, 405 lbs. at \$1.00 per pound. Three plows started again on other place about 10 o'clock. Two running around corn & one planting Peas. The other two mules at mill. Four hoes in bottoms, two in my patches of corn & Peas & the two small hands dropping Peas. No news from our Armies.
- June 20 Four plows going; one stopped to cut wheat, also one of Mrs. Watson's Boys cutting for me. Three plows on creek place and one on Steele field. Stopped two hoes to tie wheat. In evening another hand cutting wheat, a boy belonging to Jas Aiken Esq. I give 1½ Bu Wheat per day. Stopped another hoe hand to tie. Dublin shucking & one of the little girls carrying it up to be shocked. '

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Wheat very good, with the exception of considerable rotten, especially in the Gale wheat. Fighting still going on around Petersburg. Grant has crossed over to the south side of James River. So far the enemy has been repulsed.

- June 21 Hands working as yesterday. The Steele field being finished, had my watermelon patch plowed, then plowing in R R field. Weather warm & dry.
- June 22 Weather still very warm & dry. One hand cutting wheat for Mrs. Watson, the others working as for several days.

(At this point a section of the page is neatly cut out, very evidently part which Robert Wade Brice wished to excise, for some fragment of writing appears on the reverse side.)

- June 24 Commenced hauling in Wheat this morning. All hands at it, hauling & packing away, except one cutting wheat for Mrs. W & one, with one of the small hands, planting Peas in R R field. Hauled 222 shocks. Very little news from our armies. Some fighting going on every day between Lee's & Grant's armies in front of Petersburg & also between Johnston's & Sherman's forces near Marietta Ga. Heard today that a number of my acquaintances from the 4th S C Cavalry were captured a few days ago by the enemy. Among them, I learned with much regret, is Charlie J. Bell. Their horses were not captured, they having been dismounted.

(It is possible that this Charlie J. Bell was a brother-in-law to Robert Wade Brice, he having first married a Bell girl.)

- June 25 Hands working as yesterday. Finished hauling in the wheat. Hauled today 126 shocks, making with yesterday's hauling 348 shocks. In evening planting Peas, two hands, in house field. Delivered my Tithe cotton this evening at Blackstocks, 174 lbs. Weather very dry & exceedingly warm. Corn beginning to suffer.
- June 27 Five plows going, three in cotton, one splitting out middles in creek bottoms & one planting Peas in house field. One hand cutting grain for Mrs Watson again today. Hoe hands in Pototoe patch, except one sick, Lee. Nothing from our armies. The enemy have succeeded in striking & tearing up the R Roads on each side of Petersburg. Have torn up about twenty miles, it is said, on the Danville Road. They have been driven off however & the road will soon be open, it is hoped.
- June 28 Hands plowing as yesterday, one of my hands & one of Mrs. W's finishing cutting my Wheat & then cutting Oats. Two hoe hands tieing & Dublin shocking. Balance of hoes in Potatoes.
- June 29 Cutting Oats again. One hand plowing Sugar cane patches in house field, have never been plowed before. The hoes in same.

1864

Hoe hands in sugar cane. Turned my hogs into the grain field this evening. Turned in forty-two in all, two of them Pigs about a week old. Have two in a pen at home, one a young Boar.

- July 12 Warm & cloudy. Rain not far off, but none here. Finished hauling in Oats this morning. Had about 100 dozen bundles Blk Oats & 90 doz White. After hauling in mine, sent two mules to father's place to help haul oats & put two of my boys to splitting rails. Two plows in bottoms & one in Steele field. Hoes in branch bottoms. Crops suffering severely.
- July 13 Occasional showers, very light, today. Plows, four, splitting out middles in bottoms. One of the boys splitting rails & one of the hoe hands at his plow. The other hoes, two of them in bottoms, one in branch bottoms & one working about the house. The two little girls in Pea Patches. Dublin ditching again. Nothing definite from the armies for several days, except that the enemy are again trying to drive Genl Johnston from his position by flanking. At last accounts they had crossed the river in some force. All quiet around Petersburg. Genl Early at the head of a considerable number of men has gone up through Northern Va into Maryland & probably into Pennsylvania.
- July 14 One plow running around corn in bottoms & one covering Peas. Two splitting out middles. One still in Steele field. Hoe hands working in bottom corn.
- July 15 Finished plowing in Steele field at 12 o'clock, went into Sugar cane. Other hands working as yesterday.
- July 16 Only three plows going, splitting out middles in bottoms. Two hands at mill & then taking buggy to the shop. Two hands hoeing in Sugar cane, others in bottoms. Crops suffering severely. Genl Early with his troops turned up near Baltimore & Washington City & after destroying a great deal of govmt property & causing great alarm, has returned to Virginia. All quiet around Petersburg, also in Ga. The Yankees have made several attempts to take different points near Charleston in the last two weeks but have been foiled in their designs.
- (Early's invasion of Washington resulted from Hunter's victory at Piedmont, near Staunton, Va. Hunter was driven out of the Shenandoah Valley by Early, who then advanced through Staunton June 26th, to Maryland & Washington City.)
- July 18 Cool & cloudy with heavy mist. Several light showers of rain during the day. Four plows still in creek bottoms & one finishing Sugar cane, earliest patch. One hoe also in sugar cane, the rest in bottom corn.
- July 19 Cloudy & warm again. One hand planting a few Irish Potatoes & plowing Sweet Potatoe patch in the morning. About 1 o'clock P M had a heavy rain.

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After it was over, put one hand to plowing cowpen, breaking it up for Turnip patch. Sent the boys around fences & water gaps & the others to shelling corn. The water courses pretty full & ground too wet to plow.

- July 20 Two plows laying by upland corn on creek place. One hand, Phoebe, plowing Turnip patch in morning & sick in evening. Two hoes in sugar cane patches, the others in creek bottoms. Planted some Potatoe vines yesterday.
- July 21 Plows going as yesterday, only three on creek place & one at home in house field. One hoe in cane. Phoebe still sick. On the 19th inst. Genl Johnston was relieved of the command of the army of the Tenn & Genl Hood appointed in his place. All quiet around Petersburg.
- July 22 Three plows finished laying by upland corn on creek place this morning & went into the bottom again in evening. Portions of them too wet to plow. One hand plowing Potatoe patch & finishing old corn in house field. One of the hoe hands plowing in Phoebe's place, she being sick yet, plowing up last year's turnip patch. Weather quite cool early this morning. A severe thunderstorm yesterday evening. A negro man & two mules belonging to Mrs. Jane W Yongue were struck & killed. Weather cool & hazy at night.
- July 23 Three plows & three hoes in bottoms yet. Finished Turnip patches this morning & started to lay by piece of corn in R R field. One plowing Potatoe patch, very grassy, & some of the hoes in it also. Received today a package of Turnip & Carrott seed, \$5.00 worth of each from the Arsenal in Columbia, they having been imported by Govmt.
- July 24 Fighting commenced near Atlanta in 22nd inst. A heavy engagement occurred in which the enemy were driven back several miles, & out off two lines of breastworks. We captured some of 13 pieces of Artillery & near 4000 prisoners. Losses of neither side known yet. On our side Genl W H Walker & Col Maury & Major Preston killed. Of the Yankees Genl McPherson reported killed.
- July 25 Hands working as for several days. Finished the corn in R R field this morning & went to plowing the cotton, putting two & three furrows with scrapers. Am done with all my upland old corn.
- July 26 Working again as yesterday. Got around plowing bottom corn, going over portions of it again. Weather warmer than for several days. The papers announced the death of Brig Genl C H Stevens of this State who was wounded on the 22nd inst. The fighting not resumed.
- July 27 Working as yesterday. Commenced raining about 12 o'clock. Hands had to quit work. Rain continued nearly all evening. Hands shelling corn & doing little jobs.

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July 28

Ground too wet to plow. All hands at the hoe in upland corn. Creek full yesterday. Water over my bottom corn in places, doing considerable damage. Swept my water gap, log & all. Fixed it up again this morning. At last accounts our armies quiet; a considerable fight near Winchester Va on 22nd inst, in which our forces under Early defeated the enemy under Crook & Averill.

July 29

Warm & cloudy. Three hands plowing negro patches, the others at the hoe in bottoms & in upland corn at home.

Aug 1

A very warm day. Needing rain again, and prospect of it good this morning. Three hands plowing on creek place, finishing up negro patches & then plowing young corn in bottoms. The other two plows finishing Potatoe patch & plowing in cotton. Fine rain this evening. Had to stop plowing. On the morning of the 30th inst. the Yankees sprung a mine near Petersburg Va, blowing up a portion of our works & some of our forces. They then rushed through the gap but after a sharp fight were driven back.

Aug. 2

Warm & showery. Ground too wet to plow. Creek over the bottoms & injuring the corn in some places. Hands all at the hoe, part of them in upland corn on other place, the rest finishing potatoes & hoeing late Sugar cane. Sent off eighteen hands today, from my Road Division to work on the coast defenses.

Aug. 3

Hands working as yesterday except one plow in cotton. One, Sarah, sick. Yankee papers acknowledge a loss of 5,000 men in the fight following the springing of their mine in front of Petersburg on the 30th ult. Our loss in killed is said to be 100. We lost also some prisoners but our loss far less than the Yankees.

Aug 4

Two plows in cotton until 12 o'clock & plowing sugar cane in R R field in evening. Others still at the hoe.

Aug 5

Five plows going in creek bottoms. Finished running around the young corn & then plowing out middles where we planted Peas in the bottoms. Corn improving greatly since the rains. One hoe hand washing, our cook & washer, having a felon on the thumb. Two in corn on each place & the others in sugar cane patches, hoeing & thinning out. Northern papers say the Rebels have invaded Pennsylvania again, that they entered Chambersburg & demanded the payment of half a million dollars, & that before the demand was complied with the town was fired & a large part of it destroyed. Official news from Ga that the Yankee Cavalry, who have been raiding through that state, have been whipped & a number of them captured. Fighting occasionally between Hood's & Sherman's armies in portions, but no general engagement.

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Aug 6

Rained a little last night. Finished plowing in creek bottoms at 12 o'clock. In evening three plows in branch bottoms in house field & two in patches of corn, peas & sugar cane. Part of the hoe hands finishing upland corn on creek place & others in Steele field.

Aug 8

Very warm & dry. Corn beginning to need rain again badly. Plows finished in house field at 12 o'clock. In evening went into Steele field, putting one furrow in middles. Hoe hands in same field.

Aug. 9

The remains of my brother John arrived last night & were buried today. They were brought on by Rev John Simpson of Chester S.C. Finished plowing in Steele field about 12 o'clock. Sent over to Mrs. Watson's & borrowed her Thresher & Fan & commenced threshing wheat in the evening.

Aug 10

The boys all at the Gin house, threshing wheat, & part of the hoe hands also. Broke down this morning & had to stop several hours. Part of the hoe hands thinning sugar cane. On the 5th inst. a Yankee fleet attacked our Forts off Mobile Ala, capturing, after a desperate fight, two of our vessels, the Tennessee & Selma. Admiral Buchanan lost a leg & is a prisoner. The enemy lost one Monitor & one Gunboat.

Aug 11

Threshing & cleaning wheat. Cleaned 27½ Bu. Sent one plow & two hoes to work for Mrs Watson. One hoe in cotton. On the 7th inst. Fort Gaines was surrendered by Col Anderson, Fort Powell having been evacuated. Only Fort Morgan holds out. These forts are all off Mobile.

Aug 12

Hands working as yesterday, except that the one that was plowing yesterday is hunting up my hogs today.

Aug 13

Cleaning up wheat, having finished threshing May wheat. Two hoes still at Mrs W's & one in cotton, one hand at mill. Finished cleaning the wheat in evening, 55½ Bu. A good deal of rotten wheat in it & I fear it will all have to be washed. My brother Lieut Thos W Brice left home for the army again today.

Aug 15

Finished threshing & cleaning wheat today. Cleaned up six Bu. this morning, making in all 89 Bu. Commenced on my white oats in evening. Two hoes at Mrs W's, the rest putting up pens for straw & hoeing cotton.

Aug 16

Threshing & cleaning oats again today. One plow going yesterday & today in young corn on the creek. Corn suffering for rain. Weather very warm. Hoe hands working as yesterday. No important news from our armies.

Aug 17

Finished threshing & cleaning Oats & Rye. Have 25 Bu White & 24 Black Oats, 3½ Bu of Rye. One hand hunting hogs which are scattered about. The women hoers, except one at Mrs. W's, in cotton.

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- Aug 18 One hand making baskets, one plowing, the other boys hauling straw & putting up pens for cow shelters & the women hoeing Sugar Cane & finishing the cotton. News today of a fight below Richmond near White Oaks Swamp. Our loss said to be small, while the carnage of the Yankee negro troops is said to be fearful. The negroes led several charges, which accounts for their loss. The enemy were repulsed. Genls. Chambliss & Girardy, Confederates, were killed.
- Aug. 19 Fine rain last night. Hands raking & hauling manure, principally ashes & wood earth with well decomposed barn yard manure, on Turnip patch this morning. In evening the plows breaking up & bedding the Turnip patch in rows. The women shelling corn.
- Aug. 20 Rain last night. Too wet to sow Turnip seed this morning. Hands shelling corn, measuring up Tax-in Kind wheat, Oats, & Rye, & in evening hauling them to Blackstocks. I estimate my whole crop of Oats at about 70 Bushels. Exchanged 10 Bu of corn today for ten of salt. No news of much importance from our armies. All quiet about Mobile & Atlanta.
- Aug. 22. Two of the boys fixing plow stocks & hanging a door to blacksmith shop. The balance of the boys & one of the women hauling straw in morning. Three women spinning, & one, with the two little girls, cleaning out fence corners etc. In evening started four plows in Turnip patch. Sowed in rows about two feet apart.
- Aug. 23 Plowing another piece of ground to sow Turnip & carrot seed. Broke it twice & bedded it & then had to have the grass picked off & carried out. Sowed part of it in Carrot seed. Will sow the balance in turnips after a while. One hand making baskets today, others working as yesterday.
- Aug 24 One hand making baskets again. The rest hauling straw & shelling corn to pay my 2 per cent Tax-in-Kind for the relief of families of poor soldiers. My corn tax is 13½ Bu & Wheat 1½ Bu. Have to deliver it in Wbo.
- Aug 25 Two hands in Wbo with the wagon. One plowing corn on Branch bottoms, one making baskets, one cutting cord wood, & the rest working in Turnip patch, cleaning off the grass, except three who have been spinning for several days. On the 21st inst a fight occurred on the Weldon R Rd near Petersburg Va. The enemy had got a lodgment on the road & our force assaulted them. We captured one or two lines of defenses & captured a number of the enemy, but unfortunately were compelled to retire from their main line of breastworks on account of their strength & the unaccountable giving way at an important moment, of one of our brigades. Brig Gen Saunders of Ala was killed. The enemy still on the R R, very strongly fortified.

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- Aug. 26 Weather very warm. Some hands shelling corn for bread, two cutting & sawing a tree for barrel staves, three spinning, & one at Blackstocks with father's wagon hauling some corn to exchange for salt, 2½ Bu of corn for 1 Bu salt, & some oats which I sold to the Govmt., 13 Bu, & then hauling straw with same wagon & team. In evening two boys plowing corn on branch bottoms, finishing. Have a little piece of Sugar cane to plow yet, which is too wet now. Found the tree we cut for making barrels unfit for the purpose. The boys cutting another in evening. News from Mobile that Fort Morgan is in the hands of the enemy, whether evacuated, blown up, or surrendered not known. Reported that Forrest has captured Memphis Tenn. Genl Wheeler with a large body of cavalry operating in Sherman's rear.
- Aug. 27 The hands have holiday. On the 24th inst another fight took place on the Weldon R Rd in which our troops were very successful, driving the enemy from their strong position on the road & inflicting severe loss on him. Genl Wade Hampton with his cavalry acted a conspicuous part in the fight. Fine rain last night.
- Aug. 29 Four hands pulling fodder this morning on other place, one finishing plowing a piece of Sugar cane & looking after the cattle in evening, two getting barrel timber, three spinning, one sewing on negro clothes & the two little girls cutting weeds in the yard. From all accounts it seems that the enemy still hold a point on the Weldon R Rd. In the fight of the 24th we captured 2,500 prisoners & 9 pieces of Artillery & several stands of colours. Report of Forrest's capture of Memphis confirmed although he only held it a few hours. Wheeler, operating in Sherman's rear, has captured Dalton with a large amount of stores, also several other places of less importance. Election for Sheriff of Fairfield County today. Evans Oliver & Boney candidates. Voted for Evans.
- Aug 30 Two hands with wagon, hauling timber for barrels, in the morning, & in the evening hauling fodder. Part of the hands pulling fodder at home & part on other place. All at the fodder except one, sewing.
- Sept. 2 All hands pulling, hauling & packing fodder. Corn looking very light, after the fodder is taken off. Fodder ripening very fast. The weather warm during the day but very cool at night.
- Sept 3 Working as yesterday. Weather warm & dry, with cool nights. Potatoes, Peas & Turnips suffering for rain. The result of the election for Sheriff was - Oliver elected by about 30 votes.
- Sept 5 Pulling & hauling fodder again. One hand cutting corn, stalks & all, to feed to the horses & hogs. Plenty of stalks with nothing on them this year. Reported that Hood has evacuated Atlanta. A recent change of position by the Federal Genl necessitated a change on Hood's part. From this cause Hood moved to Jonesboro, several days since, about 20 miles from Atlanta on the Macon R

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Rd. On Wednesday & Thursday last, fighting was going on & it is said that our forces, oppressed with overwhelming numbers, had to fall back. Nothing reliable known yet.

- Sept 6 Light rain yesterday evening & last night. Part of the hands pulling fodder this morning. Some of them plowing the Turnip patch & sowing the seed & then all hands at the fodder. Today's news confirmed the news of the evacuation of Atlanta. Hood's army is about 20 miles from the city on the Macon Road & said to be in fine spirits. A few days since Genl John H Morgan was killed at Greenville Tenn. His forces were surprised, it is said, & cut to pieces. All the reserve forces of this state are ordered into service. All men from 16 to 50 years old including resident aliens. Exempts & men detailed from Confederate service to remain at home in civil pursuits. The men from Fairfield & Chester assemble in Wbo on Monday 12th inst. with four days rations.
- Sept 8 All hands working with the fodder. The coolest weather I ever felt here at this time of the year. News from Hood's army that the enemy are falling back from Jonesboro & places in that vicinity to Atlanta. It is said now that our loss in the fights of last week will not exceed 1500 men, though the enemy put it down at about 5.000. Orders from Genl Chesnut, commander of the Reserve forces of the state, require the detailed men to form companies independent of the other classes called out.
- Sept. 10 Weather warmer but still cool at night. Suffering badly for rain. No news from our armies. The enemy falling back on Atlanta, probably to rest & recruit before starting again.
- Sept 12 All my hands pulling & hauling fodder on creek bottoms. Also Mrs. Watson's hands pulling for me today. The fodder burning up dreadfully.
- Sept 13 Mrs W's hands pulling for me again, their own not being ready. Went to Wbo. The detailed men met & organized a company; I was elected 2nd Lieut of the company. The officers are Hayne McMeekin, Capt; O R Thompson 1st Lieut; & Joe K Davis, 3rd. The boys from 16 to 18 & the Exempts also organized.
- Sept 15 Hands tieing & hauling fodder all day. Keeps two hands busy hauling all the time.
- Sept 22 Have been at Father's since Saturday 16th inst. attending the meeting of the synod of the A R Church of the South. Returned this morning. Have had fine rains in the last few days alone. My hands, have, during my absence, finished pulling fodder except off some late corn, not yet ready, & have pulled two days for Mrs. Watson. They were stripping Sugar Cane this morning & are chopping this evening. The women shelling corn.

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On the 16th inst. Genl Wade Hampton made a dash into the enemy's lines near Petersburg, Va, capturing some prisoners, wagons & horses & twenty five hundred head of fine beef cattle. On the 19th Genl Early had a fight in the valley of Va in which he was worsted. Genl Rhodes of Ala was killed. A truce of ten days between Hood's & Sherman's army now exists for the purpose of moving away the inhabitants of Atlanta, all of whom have to leave the city by order of Genl Sherman.

(The A R P Synod evidently was held at New Hope Church in Fairfield County. Robert Wade Brice is said to have been an Elder. Later he joined the Baptist Church in Blackstocks, where his wife held membership.)

- Sept 23 Heavy rain today. One hand with the wagon bringing home some barrels which I have had - one - made & - one - repaired. The other boy cutting coal wood & the women spinning.
- Sept 24 Hands working the road. Rain again & quite cool. Feeling a little like frost.
- Sept 26 All hands pulling fodder except one, making negro clothes, & the two little girls picking Peas. The two sows, the spotted Chester & Black sow, came up a few days since with young pigs. The black one had seven & the other four. My pet sow, Beauty, also has four pigs about one month old. On the 22nd inst Genl Early was again attacked & driven back some distance, leaving twelve pieces of Artillery in the hands of the enemy. The Armistice between Hood & Sherman has expired & movement commenced again.
- Sept 27 Negroes pulling their own fodder today. Genl Early reports that he had another fight in the valley on the 24th & was successful. About the 23rd or 24th inst. Genl. Forrest captured the garrison at Athens Ala, including about 1300 Prisoners, 2 passenger trains, 50 wagons & ambulances, 500 horses & many valuable stores. His loss was very small.
- Sept 29 Finished pulling fodder yesterday. Hands stripping & cutting sugar cane today. Hauled one load in evening. Getting it ground at Mrs Stirling's. Pay 1/3. Gave part of the beef, for which I am bonded, to the Govt today. Delivered it to H Steele Esq, 700 pounds at 50 cts per lb.
- Sept 30 Weather warm & bright. Began picking cotton. Wagon started at 10 o'clock with another load of Cane. Will haul another load this evening. On the 25th inst Genl Forrest captured. He stormed & captured the Block house at that post, said to be the strongest on the road from Decatur to Nashville. Over 800 Prisoners, 300 horses, 2 pieces of Artillery & a large amount of stores were captured. Our loss in killed & wounded reported at about 55, that of the enemy near 300.
- Oct 1 Sent two hands to assist in moving a house for J Mackerel. Two others

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moving Mary, negro woman, from Mrs. Watson's. The rest tying their own fodder & picking cotton. Had my turnips plowed this evening.

- Oct 2 Attended the funeral of Lieut Wade Douglass who was wounded at Ream's Station on the Weldon Rail Road & died a few days since.
- Oct 3 Heavy fighting has been going on for several days both around Richmond & Petersburg Va. The enemy have taken some points on the outer fortifications of Richmond, about six miles from the city, but they were evacuated by our troops & were not considered of much importance. They also attacked our lines on the Weldon R R & succeeded in breaking through in one place. They have been driven back some distance but our former lines are not reestablished at all points. Losses heavy on both sides.
- Oct 4 Sad - Sad news today. About 11 o'clock A M father recd a Telegram from brother Thom & at the same time I recd one from my friend J C Chisolm, both announcing that my brother Michael was killed in a charge on Friday the 30th Sept. Shot through the head. He had been lately promoted from 1st Lieut to the Captaincy of his company, G F Boyce Guards, 6th S C Regmt. He is the third brother who has fallen in this war. One, W S Brice, died from Typhoid Fever in Richmond Va in July 1862. Then Johnnie was killed on the 3rd June 1864 & now another has fallen, another victim on the altar of his country. Only one remains in the service & he, long since, lost his right eye in battle. He is slightly wounded this time. God grant that he may be spared to us. A number of our relatives and friends are wounded. Among them Thos & Rob Brice & Lee Grisham. Uncle Sam Brice starts on to them tomorrow.
- Oct 5 Two hands hauling logs to the mill, one splitting rails, & the rest picking cotton. A kind of worm or caterpillar eating the leaves all off the cotton. There are thousands of them all over the fields. Such was never seen here before in the memory of the oldest native. No fighting of importance around Richmond or Petersburg since the 2nd inst. The enemy's losses on Thursday, Friday & Saturday are put down to 4,000; ours not so great. In fact, it is estimated by some to be less than one fifth of that number. Genl Dunnivant of the Cavalry & Col Bookter of the 12th S C were both killed on the 30th. In the valley of Va Genl Early reports that he is steadily driving the enemy before him. Genl Echols dispatches officially from Saltville Va that he whipped the enemy badly there on the 2nd inst.
- Oct 6 One hand splitting rails, one spinning, one sick, & the rest picking cotton. The weather very warm for this time of year. Abundance of rain in the last week. All accounts from Ga agree that Hood is well in the rear of Atlanta & it is generally thought that Sherman's army will soon be forced to leave Atlanta & cut its way out. Forrest is still working on their line of communications.

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- Oct. 7 One hand splitting rails again, one still sick but improving, & the others stripping Sugar cane. Weather warm.
- Oct 8 A sudden change in the weather last night; cold & windy today. Two hands helping to move a house for Joe Mackrell, the others all at the cane. Another fight below Richmond yesterday in which Brig Genl Gregg of Texas was killed & Genl Bratton of this State & Distr was wounded. Particulars not known yet here. Dispatches from Genl Early report the enemy retreating down the valley. On the 2nd inst Wheeler captured Rome Ga with its garrison of 3000 negroes. Good news from Genl Price in Missouri.
- Oct 9 Cold this morning & a little frost in low places. Recd a Telegram this morning from Uncle Sam Brice, dated Richmond 8th October. He says the boys are all doing well & that he starts home today with Roc & Lee. Brother Thom was on duty. Charlie Simonton not heard from, supposed to be killed or wounded & in the hands of the enemy. The Regmt lost heavily in men & also lost their colors.
- Oct. 10 Frost again, not enough to do much damage, however. Hands stripping & hauling Sugar cane.
- Oct 11 Weather warmer than for some days past. Hands working with sugar cane in morning, & in evening pulling & hauling in corn from Steele field. The hogs breaking in & destroying so much that we had to gather it to save any of it. Got a late start & got in only one load.
- Oct 12 A little negro, Phoebe's child Hannah, died this morning about daylight. Had been sick for several days. Hauled in another & the last load of corn from the Steele field this morning. Corn very light & a great deal of it destroyed. Hauled one load of Sugar cane & then all the negroes went to see the child buried. Yesterday was our election day for Members of the Legislature. I voted for Col R Stark Means, Henry C Davis, & James B McCants Esq. Hear today that Davis, McCants & R B Boylston are elected. In the fight below Richmond on the 7th inst. our troops drove the enemy back capturing two lines of breastworks & some prisoners. Genl Hood's movements to Sherman's rear have been, so far, very successful. He has destroyed the R Rd for some distance in the rear of Atlanta. On Wednesday last Stewart's corps took Altoona with 4,000 prisoners & a large quantity of stores. Genl Beauregard is with Genl Hood. Genl Price is still doing good work in Missouri.
- Oct 13 Weather clear & cool. All hands at the Sugar cane. Nothing from our armies today.
- Oct 15 Still working at our cane. Brought home one barrell of Syrup. On the 13th inst a force of the enemy advanced towards our works below Richmond but were repulsed, leaving many dead. Our loss small.

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Fighting below Richmond yesterday, not amounting to much.

- Oct 17 Part of the hands pulling & hauling corn from the creek bottoms & the rest picking cotton. Hauled three loads of corn. Attended a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Roads in Wbo. Not much business transacted & a very slim attendance of members.
- Oct 18 Hands working as yesterday. Hauled three more loads of corn today. Weather cool & a little cloudy. No news of importance from our armies. The report, a few days ago, of the capture of Altoona Ga with 4,000 prisoners turned out to be false. Genl French's Division assaulted & took a large part of the works & 300 or 400 prisoners, but finding the remainder of the works too strong, withdrew. The enemy claim it is a great victory, as usual.
- Oct 21 Weather pleasant. Still hauling corn from creek bottoms, 14 loads up from there tonight. Putting up every tenth load by itself. No reliable news from Hood's army. All quiet around Richmond & Petersburg. Attended the funeral of my brother Michael, whose body was brought on yesterday.
- Oct 22 A great change in the weather last night. Very cold this morning. One hand at mill with wagon in morning, the rest stripping & cutting Sugar cane. Hauled one load in evening & put another on the wagon. I received orders today to report to the Enrolling Officer in Wbo on Wednesday to go on to the camp of instruction, all details having been revoked. Will go on & go before a board of Surgeons. A fight occurred in the valley on the 19th inst in which Early first defeated the enemy & was in turn defeated by them. Our loss thought to be very heavy.

(This was the battle of Cedar Creek, October 19, during which Sheridan made his famous ride from Winchester.)

- Oct 25 Hauling Sugar cane again today. Will finish it tomorrow.
- Oct 27 A wet, disagreeable day. Finished my Cane & got the Syrup home yesterday, about 100 gallons or perhaps a little more. Hands shelling again & spinning etc.
- Oct 28 Went today & yesterday to Columbia. Reported to Major Melton yesterday & went before a Board of Surgeons last night. They accepted me for field service & recommended that I be assigned to the Cavalry. Maj Melton consequently assigned me to the 2nd Regt S C Cavalry, now stationed on the coast of S C at Green Pond, & gave me fifteen days furlough. The hands all picking cotton. Corn being too wet in bottoms to haul.

(Green Pond is a few miles south of Walterboro, South Carolina.)

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- Oct 29 Pulling & hauling corn, & three hands picking cotton. Hauled three loads.
- Nov 8 Finished hauling in my corn today, fifty-three wagonloads, being one load more than last year's crop; but, I do not think, there is any more corn, the shuck being heavier this year.
- Nov 10 Hands digging Potatoes & picking Peas. Weather fine for gathering crops. Potatoes turning off very light & generally small. Pea crop also light.
- Nov. 12 Beautiful weather, cool & clear. Reported to Maj Melton, in Columbia, day before yesterday & got an order to go on to my company, H, 2nd Cavalry, now on its way to Wilmington, N.C. Have until the 30th inst to report at my Regmt. Will start, probably, on the 15th inst.

(There are no further entries in this record until March 15, 1867. Presumably, Robert Wade Brice reported to Company H, 2nd South Carolina Cavalry, during December 1864 and served until April 1865.)

(From this point only peculiarly significant entries or portions of entries are included. As a rule, references to the weather and to farm procedure are omitted. Omissions of one or more full entries are indicated by a succession of five stars. Omission of part of a day's entry is indicated by a succession of three stars. My editorial comments are included in parentheses.)

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- Mar 15 Cold & heavy sleet.
- Mar 16 * * * I have started work this year with five hired hands, freed folks. Have three work horses & need at least two more hands but can't get them now. Probably can pick up enough to work the crop. I give two of my hands, Lee & Jeff, standing wages - Jeff \$50 in specie for the year & his rations - Lee \$ ——— & rations. The others, George, Sarah, & Phoebe I give part of the crop.

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- Mar 23 * * * A piece of bottom land, about 12 acres, I rented from Mrs. Watson. Have all my creek place rented on the same terms to two white men, John Lewis & Samuel Farmer. * * *

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- April 11 One hand, Sarah, sick. * * *

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April 15 One hand working in shop again today. One still sick & another, Lee. not able to work from boils. Phoebe knocking down cotton stalks in wheat & oats. Two plows, one of Wash's freedmen to pay for work done for him, breaking up cowpen in morning. * * *

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April 20 * * * One hand, George, gone in evening, to Blackstock's to attend a meeting of the negroes of the neighborhood, political, I suppose. His plow idle. Two hands, Lee & Sarah, still sick. My work badly behind.

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Apr 24 Three plows going today, Phoebe being able to plow again.

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Apr 30 * * * Had to stop one plow several hours to hunt up one of my hogs that has been depredating on my neighbors.

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May 4 * * * My hands who were sick all at work again. Another, George down yesterday. Today I hired another hand, Minerva. Will give her rations & \$3.50 per month in currency. One third of her wages to be paid by those hands working for a part of the crop.

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May 17 Another hand, Jeff, sick this evening. Work very backward.

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Monday May 20 Hands who were sick at work again, & another, Lee, down with an old sore on his leg, caused by the bite of a snake years ago. * * *

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Monday, May 27 * * * Have one extra hoe hand hired until I get my cotton chopped over. Give 50 cts. per acre.

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May 29 * * * One hand, Lee, sick. * * * Not enough ground sided in my own crop to give the tasks today. * * *

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June 2 * * * Paid my State & Dist taxes on Wbo today. Amt \$21.06.

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June 5 * * * Find the watermelon vines infested with Bugs. Sprinkled them with ashes. * * *

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June 11 * * * Got a return from my bale of cotton. Sold for 20 cts.

June 12 * * * Commenced cutting Wheat this morning. Had three Cradles. * * *
Hired hands to cradle, for a Bushel of Wheat per day.

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Wednesday June 19 Ground too wet to plow. All hands, except one sick, hoeing.

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Monday June 25 Hands all hoeing. Have one extra hand, hired for a few days. * * *

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June 27 * * * Sent one hand to help haul Miss Jane Polly's wheat, her hands having helped me.

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July 2 Hands working as yesterday. One, Sarah, sick. * * *

July 3 * * * The boys cutting up wood for threshing wheat. Expect to thresh with Maj Thos Woodward's steam thresher. * * *

July 4 Hands not working except Jeff who is plowing, preferring to work today & take holyday Saturday. * * *

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July 9 One hand & one mule with a horse & hand of Miss Polly hauling water & wood for threshing wheat, moving the engine, thresher. * * * Commenced threshing wheat at five minutes before five this evening, & threshed & cleaned 54½ Bu, 21½ Bu for Miss Polly & 33 Bu for me. Give one-tenth for threshing. * * *

Wednesday, Jan 1 The ground covered to the depth of two inches or more with sleet & snow. Thawing a little during the day. No work going on except getting fire wood & attending to stock. Have my hands hired & ready to go to work as soon as the weather moderates. Have two of the same hands I had last year, George & Sarah Cuttle. They will work by themselves, run one plow & work the house field, which will include the new ground of four or five acres, between the house & quarter. Have also hired another hand, Green Castles, who will run two plows & work the old house field. He hires his own hands. I give them one third of the crop - see contract - they make on the lands already cleared, & in case they clean other land & work it, I give them one half what they make on it. Green has not moved in yet but is ready to go to work & will move in a few days. He proposes clearing new ground of ten acres. I do not design planting much cotton as I think we cannot, at the present prices, make anything or even save ourselves by it; but will try to make plenty of provisions. My hands have their own crops of wheat & will have no share in mine. I give them land to sow & allow them the use of my horses to plow it in lieu of a share in my crop.

Jan 2 Green assisting Mr. Woodward in packing cotton. * * *

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Jan 7 Hauled two Bales of cotton to Blackstocks this morning, one of my own and one belonging to the negroes. Got Mr. N C Rosboro to take it to Columbia with some of his own. Selling one bale at this time to pay Rosboro's store account, principally bagging & ropes. Raining nearly all morning.

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Jan 11 A cold day. Got returns from my cotton. Sold for 10½ cts. My bale weighed 386 & the negroes 414 lbs. Paid, with the proceeds of my Bale, \$38.28, after paying expenses, my store account with B G & W L Rosboro, & part of an order of \$20.00 given by W. Watt Brice on me.

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Jan 22 Sent one hand with my wagon to haul a load of corn for J. Vinson. Weather right cold & cloudy.

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Jan 29 * * * Hauled two Bales of cotton to Blackstocks to be shipped to Columbia. *
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