

Thursday Nov 4 1980

Dear "Cousin" Mary,

I'm delighted to know that we go back together to the old pioneer, and colonist, Hans Wagner! (When are we going to join the Colonial Games?!)

I started reading "Diary" when I got home Sunday p M and I have been at it ever since. Except for the time I've been on the phone, calling everyone I thought could tell me about the cemeteries in the area of South Dallas county and north Calhoun. Last night I found pay dirt - On an early index of the Chambersville Cemetery about 9 miles southwest of Fordyce in Calhoun county there is listed a stone marked "H.P. Halsell, born in Fairfield Co S. C. 1849 - d 21 Jan 1890. (There is probably an error in the year, for I had already read this entry in my grandfather's diary: -

Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 1891. ... Ed Halsell here to tell us of his father's H.P. Halsell's death. He died this morning. After dinner, Mr and Mrs Cassels with Henry to drive the wagon, went to Halsell's. I rode a horse and went too. After an interview with the family, and a last look at the

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remains of my old friend, I went on to  
Mark Coleman's to spend the night."

Of course the error could have been made  
in copying the engraving on the stone. I  
hope to go to the cemetery and find  
the stone and copy it myself. What  
I would like to do is get a picture  
of it for you. I don't have a camera, but  
if Sybil could find a time to go when  
the light was right, she would get  
it for me.

Some other entries of interest in the  
diary, beginning in S. Carolina:—

1. Apr. 27, 1888 --- Pres Halsell here today---
2. July 27, 1888 --- I together with Mark Coleman  
and "Buz" Halsell boarded the train for a  
prospecting trip to Ark. (\* this was in the  
inside fold of the book and was blurred, but I am  
sure it was Pres.)
3. Nov 22 1888 --- Mrs Preston, <sup>Halsell</sup> had a girl babe,  
born this morning about 4 o'clock.
4. Dec 1, 1888. --- Edie, Jim Polk, and Nora and  
Pres Halsell started for Ark today as the  
van-guard of our party. --- (I suppose Mr  
Halsell had come back to S.C. to be with his  
wife at the birth of their child, and to accompany

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his daughter Dora, and Edie Feaster, to Ark  
to keep house for their men-folks. Jim Polk  
Feaster, Edie's brother, also went along.)

March 2 1889 (in Ark.) --- the boys organized  
a baseball club. Elected Ed Halsell president.  
March 23 1889 --- Hamp Halsell here tonight  
July 29 1890 --- Dora and Pres Halsell here tonight  
Sept. 1, 1890 --- Mr Halsell here this evening  
Oct. 10, 1890 --- Mr Halsell began to put up  
David's store today ---

The above Oct 10<sup>th</sup> entry was the last time  
Mr Halsell was mentioned in the diary until  
the news of his death. Since he was still  
living through the year 1890, when the Census  
was taken, he will appear on the census of Dallas  
County, Jackson Township, or in Calhoun County  
Caswell Township. His farm may have been  
just over the line.

If I could call back a few years, I would  
get myself to Little Rock and read the 1890  
census, as you know, it has now  
been released to the public. Maybe you  
can get information on it through your  
Historical Society.

I tried to call you Monday at Rena's,

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but they had gone to take Helen back to Little Rock. They took her back again yesterday, and will take her back tomorrow. Her three doctors are supposed to get together and decide what to "do with her"; Hattie said it was possible they would keep her in the hospital.

Listen, Mary, dont bother to try to get me a copy of grandmother Drusilla's picture. After more consideration, I realize that the two pictures would not really make a good "match". Hers is in her dainty little housecap, and his in his formal dress outfit. I think it best to frame hers in a dainty little frame of some kind, different from his. She wasn't nearly as old when her picture was made. She died before she was 40. He was nearly 80 when his picture was made. painted.

It was so good to visit with you, and sorry you didn't come down to have that "instant" with me.

Hope you got home ok and found all ok. Including Mary and Julia. Tell them I wish they could have come with you.  
Love, Edith