

The Journal of James Gatliff Fanning, 1857-1870
Original in the Pearce Civil War Collection,
Navarro College, Corsicana, TX
transcribed by Vicki Betts

1862

September

- Monday 1 Lizzie opened school. Rain in evening. saved turnips.
Sunday 2 More rain promised. Set out Bermuda
grass. Ella on hand. Mr Hunt & Mrs. Watson
brot daughter Harriet. Showers all day.
Set out Bermuda & Eschalottes
Wednesday 3 Fixed picquet fence at creek, washed away by flood. Set out
Bermuda.

1862

September continued

- Thursday 4 Prepared old corn crib, for corn. Finished
Bermuda
Friday 5 [blank]
Saturday 6 Visit from Mrs Gay. Hauled wood. Went to Buckhorn
for butter. Didn't get it.
Sunday 7 Stonewall Jackson is said to have given Pope a dreadful
drubbing in Culpepper Co. Notwithstanding all the
thrashings, the voice of the North is "still for war." Large
bounties are offered for ~~soldiers~~ enlistments, but their boys
fight shy. The Dutch & Irish elements being exhausted
the recruiting of their armies is an uphill business.
Verily, no beams from the sun of peace seem as
yet to radiate thro' the gloom of the dark ho=
=rizon of war. Visit fm Mr. Sykes & W Gay
Monday 8 Got 1 lb Tobacco--\$1.50 fm Gay yesterday
Tuesday 9 Did nothing except pick a few beans.
Two nice little showers. Got up colts
Wednesday 10 Killed sheep. Jim helped Jesse pick his corn, & Jesse's
Jim helped pick mine, also Mr. C's boys. Turn
out colts, & kept up Tiger. Alex. Denmont brot
Malcolm home last Sunday.
Thursday 11 Jim helped Mr. Clark in his mowing operations
Friday 12 Sam went to Buckhorn for butter—
brot 8½ lbs. My corn crop 35 or 40 bushels—
hogs having destroyed the balance
Saturday 13 Went with Lizzie Fred & babe to Shockley's—not
at home—dined at Lay's. Jim worked for Tommy
Sunday 14 Malcolm jumped in creek & swam across. Niggers
have spoiled him. Sold him to Tommy
for \$65. News that Stonewall Jackson, & Lee & Long=

=street have given McClellan & Pope a dreadful drubbing near Manassas; & that Bragg has served up Banks & Buell a dish same sort. Symptoms of disaffection towards Lincoln's administration & the war, begin to appear at the North. Look out for the inception of civil war among 'em at the fall elections. Their men begin to relish less keenly the idea of being slaughtered, when themselves are to be the victims

Sept. continued

Monday	15	Jim helped Tommy—nice little Rain—enough to spoil ½ of my fodder, which was in transitu to the stack
Tuesday	16	Jim helped Mr C. Weed sold my wool at 50¢--\$69. Tommy sold his at 35¢--pd me for my wether wool \$46.85¢ Finished hauling fodder
Wednesday	17	Jesse paid me \$150—I owe him \$½ . Bunker paid me \$20—owes me \$6.50¢ Jim helped Mr C. as usual.
Thursday	18	Heavy Shower last night. Jim as usual.
Friday	19	Jim same sport, Sam bot pr shoes a/t Bunker \$5
Saturday	20	Went with Jesse cow hunting on Elm. Didn't find cow—but did find Hop with a wormy calf. Drove her home, & doctored calf
Sunday	21	Glorious news of week. McClellan mortally wounded. Pope killed—both their armies destroyed. Buell, so far escaped. Cincinnati in our hands, & our troops marching on Washington & St. Louis. Cold mornings, hot days. No wind to grind corn last 2 or 3 weeks. Sam brot 2 bushels from meal from Steagall's last Saturday & 4½ lbs butter from Mrs Johnson's
Monday	22	Jim helped Tommy. Killed sheep
Tuesday	23	Started in buggy to hunt Percy to haul Mr. C's wool to San Antonio, & to get meal. Found Percy at Warnmuck's [or Wummuck's], on Five Mile creek. No go. Brot up at Steagall's
Wednesday	24	Got 3 bushels meal for self—2 bot. Liniment for Jesse, & 10 lbs Sugar for self, & came home. Jim with T. during absence. Got 4¼ lbs butter from Mrs Johnson
Thursday	25	Mr. C. started down the Sandies for corn Jack patched my roof A. M. while Jim pulled corn stalks. Both daubed Mr C's house P. M.
Friday	26	Jim helped Mr Clark's lads as usual
Saturday	27	Jim as usual. Went to Shockley's with babe

wife & Fred—Lizzie Shockley on horseback
Spent the day & brot home ten pounds butter

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gap between September 27 and October 26, 1862

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Notes from the Diary of
Mrs. Emily Milner Van Hook Middleton,
Corsicana, Texas,
1856 May 2-1898 October 23
edited by Tia Templeton Atwood and Edna Hawkins.
Transcript at University of Texas at Arlington Special Collections.

p.90 [1862]

Sunday, September 7th—Went with Mrs. Henderson yesterday afternoon out in the country, called at Messers. Bryant's, Crabb, Willis and Bro. Rose. Paid for some eggs I had bought some time ago and presented her with a sunbonnet. Weather still very dry, no chance to sow turnips yet.

Friday, September 12th—Worked on my net but did not finish trimming it, can't get any narrow black ribbon. Called with Mrs. Henderson on Mrs. Holbert. Have finished sowing turnip seed, lettuce, cabbage, weather again fair.

Saturday, September 13th—Finished my net and other head dresses...

Saturday, September 20th—During the last week have been unusually busy. Picked wool Monday and Tuesday. Cleaned house Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday sized warp for the women's dresses, spooled Thursday and Friday till afternoon when I went to Mrs. Burgher's and warped it. Mary was taken sick on Tuesday morning, at night sent for Mrs. Parker who spent the night with us. On Wed. September 17th, Mary was delivered of a daughter. . .

Monday, September 22nd.—Yesterday did not attend church on account of Laura's indisposition, Anna came to Mrs. Henderson's and dined. This morning made sponge cake, cleaned off my bedstead, wrote to sister, carried letter to the office, received one from Mrs. Marchbanks, bought a pair of gauntlets of Oakes at \$1.50.

p.91

Saturday, September 27th--. . . Spun wool yesterday for socks, Laura spun today. Received of Emma Basset \$50.00 September 17, 1862.

Diary of Fannie Brown,
near modern Kilgore, Texas,
volume for 1862 missing

**James G. Fanning Diary--
1862**

October Continued

Sunday 26

First killing Frost last night—being most probably the first frost we have had tho' there be people who say otherwise No war news of consequence since the taking of Harper's Ferry. The battle of Sharpsburg produced us nothing except the loss of 10,000 men, the enemy acknowledged an equal loss & Van Dorn, at Corinth, has been forced to retreat Old Abe is gathering slowly his 600,000 men—they will be ready in the spring--& then will come the final struggle. Got a letter fm Jesse yesterday, in which he gives a cock & bull story whereat 4, 5, 6, or 7,000 Feds being within 180 miles of San Antonio, & followed by as many more. Letter fm Dr Beasley last Friday

Monday 27

Carried buggy to Wickie's

Tuesday 28

Rode to Collins's to get clothes made for Jim

Wednesday 29

Brot buggy fm Wickie's—pd him in all \$35

Thursday 30

Load corn fm W. Gay, 22 bbls 48½ lbs each 1,067 lbs

Friday 31

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in all 38 bu. & 6 lbs.

November

Saturday 1

Rode with Madame & babe to Shockley's. Got 3 yds cloth \$12; 12 lbs butter @ 15¢ & 13 @ 25 Jim working for T.

Sunday 2

Sent to Collins \$2 for making Jim's 2 shirts & breeches. Cost of cloth breeches, got fm Shockley, 3 yds \$6—cost of that for shirts, fm Mrs. Watson—Linkum has issued proclamation emancipating all niggers after 1st Jan. next. So much for this war for restoring the Union & the Constitution. Lee is said to have given McClellan another thrashing; and Bragg is also said to have drubbed Buel, killing 20 & taking 30,000 prisoners. The Feds have possession of all Texas ports. Will they attempt to penetrate the interior? We will see Wrote mother. Jim hauled poles for T. Yesterday Shockley sent me \$100—

1862

November—continued

Monday 3

Jim worked for C ½ day. Rode to Lewis's for mare—no go. Visit fm Mr Peacock

Tuesday 4

Rode to Morey's, branded Daisy's mule colt—female brown—1 spot in forehead—white—triangular, & one below

Wednesday 5

Prepared to go for corn

Thursday 6

With Hattie & on horseback, & Frank in wagon, rode Watson's, thence to Billy Smith's—loaded 25 bushels corn & made Watson's at night

Friday 7

Left Hattie & Cobus & came home. Jim worked Tommy ½ of day

Saturday 8

Baby's birth day—nine months old. Jim another ½ day. Rode to W. Gay's with Lillie, Betty, Babe & wife. Dined there, & came home

Sunday 9

Northern matters are rapidly approaching a crisis. What with having been kicked, cuffed, thrashed & drubbed so badly & so often, the Northern boys are losing their appetities for war—in several localities have resisted the 600,000 draft—notwithstanding Lincoln was promised, if he would issue his emancipation proclamation, that armies would spring from the ground when he “put down his foot=firmly.” Well, the spirits have been called; but don't come. So far as heard from, the democrats have large majorities in the late elections; & should they obtain control of the House of Representatives, their government may be known a while longer as a republic. Otherwise, either a military dictator will usurp the government, or anarchy, revolution & civil war will convulse their country within ninety days—in my opinion. Let us wait & see how near this prediction will approach accuracy.

Monday 10

Frank went to river for corn. Gathered & shelled okra—nearly bucket full. Watson, cr. paper \$6.50 ~~Steagall cr again \$1.50—Shockley do \$1.50~~ Jim worked ½ day for Mr C.

Tuesday 11

Some days ago, Jesse paid me for Baldwin \$1.40. Borrowed from Mr C. day or two ago \$100—Watson cr by \$5 paid Billy Smith, for corn, for me. Jim worked for T. Frank came home with 25 bbl corn Watson cr 1½ bush meal.

1862

November—continued

Wednesday 12

Jim worked for Mr C.

Thursday 13

Mrs. Clarke, this morning at 4, gave birth to a boy. Rode with Jesse to Collins; & hence to Knowles's. ~~Jim as usual~~—Jim worked for Mr C.

Friday 14

Jim worked for Mr C. Visit in eve fm Mr. Morey

Saturday 15

Rode with Knowles & Jesse & surveyed 200 acres of land near Tom McPeters' old place—100 of which is mine, all having been purchased fm Billy Smith at \$1 pr acre. In evening rode to W. Gay's with Lizzie & bot breeches pattern \$10 frm him on cr. Jim hauled me 2 loads wood already cut—worked balance of day for Mr C.

Sunday 16

Well—there is at last a pretty fair prospect that the Blinkumites will call on us this winter. They are talking of colonising us—that is to say—Hon. A Blinkum will first do his duty, by driving out our people—then families will move in—possess the land—occupy our houses, & cultivate cotton in our fields. Tis a nice programme, & may, in so far prove successful as to drive us from our homes, & cause many to perish from inclement weather--& starvation, but as a permanent measure, it won't do. When a man, without my consent, puts his family in my house, or cultivates cotton or anything else in my field, he will carry his life in his hand. Guerilla bands will occupy our mountain fastnesses and eagle-like, will swoop down upon the robbers spreading death, desolation & terror over the entire country. Then, indeed, will the war have become one of extermination.

Monday 17

Laid off my new field, & Jim began hauling rails Slight Rain last night. Mr. Peacock's family arrived at Jesse's house. Wrote Dr. Beasley

Tuesday 18

Jim still hauling rails from field for new field Ann Peacock came to school. Laura caved.

1862

November—continued

Wednesday 19

Laura up this A. M. did about ½ work Jim hauling rails. Sugar arrived from Mrs Steagall

Thursday 20

Wrote Dr. Noel. Jim finished hauling rails from field

Friday 21

Jim hauled up picquets & end of rails from field.

Saturday 22

Rode over to new tract. A.M. & showed niggers the line. To Passmore's AM. & received \$130.50—being all he owes for tuition of Mary Caton. Jim hauled wood

Sunday 23

Seven men, with ten horses rode up at noon, & got corn for their horses—John Huthinson of Ecletto said to be among 'em. Strong apprehension of an invasion

Monday 24

Settled with Mr. C. to date

Tuesday 25

Went to Cotton Wood with Jim to hunt Larry & Ball. Slept at Mathieu's

Wednesday 26

Found Larry at 3 P.M. and came home, leaving Jim to hunt Ball.

Thursday 27

Frank left for Steagall's for hay, carrying salt to be ground. Jim brot home Larry

Friday 28

Jim held pretty much on slack

Saturday 29

Rode to Collins's. Madame bot 2 pr stockings Watson cr. sole leather 50¢ & making 1 pr shoes.

Sunday 30

Wrote mother visited Gillmore. An expedition is on foot in New York, destined, as some folks think, for Texas. Not so, unless the Linkumites are gone clean mad. McClellan has been removed, & Burnside fills his place. Good for us. They will this winter, make one grand, final concentrated attack on Richmond, or invade Texas. Both will not be attempted. But they will sweep the sugar & cotton plantations on our coast clean as a whistle. Weed & family arrived at Jesse's. Ella Peacock came to school last Monday.

Charles Braches diary for 1862

October

1st –The weather continues warm & dry. Fall gardens are wilting & the grass which sprang up so profuse during the early fall rains is all wilted away. The mast is not promising at all. The hands are picking cotton. Bro. Crutcher came this evening. Mrs. Broches [sic] gone over to Capt. Jones to take Mary Goodson home.

2nd –Bro. Crutcher gone on to Gonzales. There is no change in the farmwork.

3rd –The hands still picking cotton. I went this evening out to Weed's to meet the hands returning from Stockhunt.

4th –Went to Gonzales to-day. The hands finished the cotton business. There was a good shower to-day 2-3 miles west of the creek, but none here.

Sunday Octob. 5th - No preaching in the neighbor. [sic] Mrs. Broches [sic] & myself went to Mrs. Green's after dinner. Col. Branch & a party of Concripts [sic] had just passed on to Alleyton. The weather dry & warm.

6th –Madison gone Stockhunting in the Prairie. Sent Didimus & Bill to help Mr. Bass put up a corn crib, the rest picking peas.

7th –All hands picking peas except Didimus who is hunting up some horses that have worms in them, he found one & penned him. Miss Carrie Lewis & Mrs. Fanny Houston here. I went to Gonzales.

8th –The same work continues still after more wormy horses. High south wind. Mrs. B. went to see Fanny this evening.

9th –Last night we had a good rain & this morning a norther. The hands shucking corn. Did still hunting wormy horses. Mad. came home last night from the stockhunt.

10th –The hands picking peas. Mad. hunting horses. I went to Gonzales to attend the synod of our church. No Quorum present. I remained over night.

11th –No change in work. Returned home tonight. The norther which commenced last night increased in violence, the air is quite cool.

Sunday 12th -Attended preaching in the forenoon & returned home this evening. Had a slight frost on yesterday, visible on the fence- the hands picking peas. Didimus gone to mill & Mad gone Stockhunting.

14th –All hands picking peas. Mrs. Gellhoe & Mrs. Chole [sic?] Smothers here to-day. Charley came in the evening. Weather clear & pleasant through the day but cool at night.

15th –No change in work. Fair & pleasant weather. Mrs. Gellhoe rec'd two letters from Gellhoe – 15th & 22nd of September.

16th –Received a letter from Joel Sept. 23rd. Mrs. Gellhoe one from Sept. 29th. reports his papers. I went out in search of fodder or hay.

17th –Shirley Smothers went off to see his boy, his wife remaining here. The weather very pleasant. Mrs. Borches [sic] took a lot of Thread to Mrs. Hanson. This evening Gellhoe returned with Joel from Monroe, La.

18th –The hands finished the peas, brought them in & then got a lot of wood. Mrs. Gellhoe this morning. Bro. Walker came out this evening. Mrs. Lord & Amanda Walker here on their way from Hallettsville home, stayed all night.

Sunday 19th -All hands went to church except Joel & cousin Rebecca. Capt. Jones & wife here this morning, & see Joel. Mrs. Low & co. went home this morning.

20th –Sent Didimus hunting Stock East & David West of Peach creek. Madison making a horse rake & the others picking cotton.

21st –Joel & myself went to town to have his wound probed. Charley Smothers started with his boy to Hill co.

October 23rd - Sent Madison to Chenault's saw mill to get some spinning wheels. Blucker Erskine & a negro boy dame here sent by Mrs. Joe Johnson to get some Lard & Potatoes.

24th –No change in work. Mad. returned with the spinning wheels. I went to Capt. Jones to see him about mowing some grass for me.

25th –During the night a severe norther rose up. Nothing much doing to-day. The hands are getting some wood & preparing some corn for mill.

Sunday 26th -Pretty cool & blustering. Plenty of ice in the water bucket. Gellhoe came this evening & Mrs. Charley Smothers went home with him.

27th –David & Didimus both gone Stockhunting. The mowing machine came by noon & after Dinner started the machine in the hay field.

28th –No change in work, stayed with the hands cutting grass, got Tom to help us put up while David vined the Sweet Potatoes.

29th –Finished cutting to-day & brot [sic] the machine to my house. Took dinner at Gellhoses. Joel had rode into there. Mrs. Smothers came up with Fanny while there.

30th –Joel & myself went to town. The hands putting up the hay. Madison getting team up.

31st –Hauled in two loads of hay; Mad. Dock & William, Did. came home last night.

November 1st

Hauled in two loads of hay to-day. Did. taking Mad.'s place & Mad. branding calves & got a steer from the Prairie, as also horses for next weeks Stockhunt.

Sunday 2nd - Remained all day at home, being unwell. Gellhoe & family here, Mrs. Smothers came over to-day. The weather fine.

3rd. –Hauled in two more loads of hay. Didimus & Dake out Stockinghunting [sic]. I took Mary to school but brought her back home with me on account of Scarlet fever being in town.

4th –Hauled in two more loads of hay. I went to see E. M. Fly this evening. Major Calvert & Mr. Franks at home.

5th –A norther last night. Bill & Mad. hauled the last load of hay. The rest went about digging Sweet Potatoes. Major Calvert & Franks returned again tonight The wind blowing very hard all day.

6th –Pretty cool this morning; still some norther. Calvert & Franks started home after Dinner. Roarke Walker on the stage. Finished the Potato crop; made about 50 or 60 Bushels

7th –Killed a Beef this morning. Joel took Mrs. Smothers to Gellhoe's. Major Ben Mccouloch [sic] here last night. Mad. took Mrs. Blair & E. M. Fly a piece of Beef & brought home a Boar, from Mr. Fly. Did. came home last night, branded 16 calves this week.

8th –Mad. & Did. put away the Potatoes & afterwards went & got timber to make a wood frame for the wagon. Dock & Bill chopping wood in the forenoon & afterwards preparing corn for mill. Mrs. Broches [sic] & Joel gone to Mrs. Gellhoe's. Dake returned by night from the Stockhunt, having branded 1 s^ calf and one on calf.

Sunday 9th -Mary who had gone to Capt. Jones returned on yesterday with Clinty Jones & the latter returned home to-day. Rec'd my Book. Mr. Matthews here, after Dinner. Mrs. B. & myself went to see Mr. Greathouse; he is still unwell.

10th –Joel & myself went to Gonzales. Willy Jones & 6 or 7 others started for war. Madison & Dake Stocking. Didimus gone to mill & Bill hauling rails & firewood.

10th -David chopping. The children piling Brush. Dubose here to Supper; paid him off for Salt, Sleighs & Steers.

11th – 15th - The home work continues, Didimus driving the wagon & Bill help David chop. Madison & David both returned from their Stockhunt on Friday. Had a little rain on last Wednesday night- Bro. Walker came out this evening.

Sunday 16th -Attended preaching & then spent the day at Mr. Gellhoe's. Joel went with Bro. Walker to E. M. Fly's. Prior's [sic] Reg't. papers here to-day on their way to Columbus. We had a house full staying with us over night.

17th -A heavy mist through the night & cloudy with north wind this morning. Madison went on his Stockhunt. Kept David at home & set him to chopping with Bill. Didimus driving the wagon & Dock making the new string of fence.

18th -Took Mary to school this day. The weather somewhat showery without much rain but clearing off toward noon. The court excused me from serving this term. No change in work.

19th -No change in work. The weather fair & north wind, but not cold much. Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Wilhoit & Mrs. Bass here to-day.

20th -Laid a portion of fence wire. No change in work. Mrs. Jones & Miss Lewis & Mrs. E. M. Fly & D. W. Fly & Mrs. Gellhoe here to-day. Sent off by the stage clothing to H. for Arkansas troops.

21st - No change in work untill [sic] evening. Mad. drove up the dun crippled Beef & I killed him. Mrs. Broches [sic] & Joel gone to Mrs. Barks & Gonzales to see about getting some weaving done.

22nd - Mad. looking after horses, the others work as before.

Sunday 23rd -The weather pleasant; Read my Books. Went to Wiseman's after Dinner to send some clothing to Houston by Mr. Dromgoole. Mrs. D. confined with a Baby.

24th -Went to town to-day, Joel going with me. Mad. gone Stockhunting in the timber, the rest chopping back of the field ground blocks for Pasture fence. Mrs. Broches [sic] gone to Capt. Jones, brought Miss Carrie Lewis home.

25th -No change in work. Col. Woods Reg't Company at Mooney's Lake tonight. Mrs. B. Miss Lewis & Joel gone up there this evening.

26th -David & Bill fixed up Orchard fences. Didimus gone to take Polly to town to be taken by John Baldrige to Brownsville for cotton & other things sent \$220 for Articles. Cockrum & family here to-day.

27th -David & Bill chopping Blocks to go under Pasture fence. Madison & Dake Stockhunting about home, & Did. hauling.

28th -All hands busy closing up field fence, David sick. Mrs. Broches [sic] gone to take her thread to the weaver's & bring Mary home, Martha Parks came with them. Joel spent the day at Mr. Gellhoes.

29th –Did. gone to assist Gellhoe with his horses, the rest at work staking the new & removing the old fence. Margaret Parks here this morning. Both came home on the stage.

Sunday 30th -The weather has been cool through the past week, we had ice twice but more warm again with South wind & cloudy. Read my book. Mrs. B. Joel & Mary went to Mrs. Jordan Bass's.