

Feb 22	Revolution in France. General George Washington's birthday.
April 15	William Free's son born.
July	Jo Philips charged our Samuel [slave] wrongly with stealing his knife.
July 4	Oscar Allen died June 27 th and Pinckney Allen died July 4 th . A little barbecue held at William Henderson's.
July 12	Bought buggy of Briggs, Tuscaloosa, \$187.50.
August 8	Mrs. Mays, wife of William Mays, died.
August 17	Catherine Morrow died. ²⁴
August 19	Strange or uncommon storm passed through this country. No rain cloud or gust. (APH. Two illegible lines.) We heard some persons killed; we never saw such in summer.
August 23	Jefferson took wagon load of wheat to Sipsey Mill.
Sept 9	Anthony Mays died. ²⁵
Sept 27	Posey White, son of David S. White, born.
Sept 30	Corn all cribbed and 4000 lb. cotton gathered.
November	Battle Maton and Miss Drummond married at Doctor Snoddy's. ²⁶
Nov 9	We have gathered 30,000 lb. cotton.
Dec 7	Esq. Birchett's school ended, et cet.

1849

William Patton and sons Walter and Jefferson went up to Tuscaloosa on the steamboat *Declaration*. Thomas J. Patton and Maison Knox entered college. On May 23rd following, Thomas J. Patton was taken down to bed severely with dysentery. Much bloody mucous. Friday, 25th, Walter S. Patton got a horse from the livery stable and came home in the evening late. Saturday 26th William Patton started with him. We got to Tuscaloosa 7 o'clock morning. Dr. J.S. Guild had been called in. We continued with him until Wednesday morning 11 o'clock. William Patton returned home late in the evening. Next day, Thursday, May 31st, started back to town in buggy about 12 o'clock noon and took boy Ned [slave]. Got there about dusk. Jefferson bad. Dr. Guild immediately sent for consultation. We remained with him until Sunday, June 3rd. William Patton returned home, left Jefferson better and left Ned to assist him. Jefferson lay in his bed in these college dormitory until Monday, May 28th, when he was removed to Doctor Manley's house and under the care of that most excellent lady, Mrs. Manley. We got accounts from Jefferson frequently that he was improving and on the 14th July took buggy up to town and Jefferson, myself, and Ned came home and he continued to improve without any considerable backset. But he entered college nearly three months behind his class and not well prepared even if he could have begun with them for he had been two years on the farm, of course was rusty in what he has acquired. He entered under great discouragements and difficulties and has acquitted himself nobly so far now. August 22nd 1850 at home vacation until October 1st next and at present stands level with his class, fair even and square which considering his disadvantages and hindrances, the great quantity of study he had to make up at first and again from sickness recommend his perseverance and resolution to the admiration of his friends.

Jany 8	Mrs. Permelia McShan removed to Mississippi.
Jany 8	David White, son of Andrew White, came here to work. ²⁷
Jany 11	Marion Mayo and Mils Mize married.
Jany 14	Our boy John [slave] found dead in bed in the morning. He had epileptic fits and smothered.
Jany 18	William Mays and Mary Thornton married.
Jany 22	William Scott's son born.
Jany 22	Shipped 21 bales of cotton. Sold at \$5.37½ per cwt. Some weeks later shipped 2 bales yellow. Got \$5.89 per cwt for it.
Jany 24	Dr. David Morrow began to operate on Martha...(illegible). ²⁸
Feb 13	Samuel Archibald and Miss Jane H. Summerville married.
Feb 14	Henry McCracken buried. Found dead in creek.

Feby 15 John Daniel and Celestine Mays married.
 Feby 26 Saw Esq. Williamson (or Willson) of Springfield 1st time. Died soon after.
 March 2 David White left us about fire in trees. [Dismissed for starting forest fire?]
 March 12 Thomas L.C. Means returned to South Carolina. (FSU. Dr. William Patton's nephew, son of Eloisa J. Patton and James Means.)
 March 17 Big flood in creeks. Bridges all reached.
 April No rain this month.
 April 15 Snow morning of the 14th. Frost and ice. Thermometer down to 11! Yes, Death's seal is set upon the fields. So early, yes so very early, robed in spring's gay green, Yes. Truly even now in Summer's richer robes of ripe maturity. Snow, frost, ice, cold north wind and long continued drought have dispossessed the fields of flower and leaf for Black the type of Death and Grief.
 May 19 Thermometer 5 morning 52. Fair, cool, windy. Sun shines bright. The shade very dark and cool. The sun is very bright and warm. The murmuring wind seems to converse of things lonely and far away. Altogether a day of poetry and romance. Bright and wild. Contrasts Grand and Glorious. Oh! How many ten thousand ways has the Lord of light and Life to warm the heart and win the will.
 May 21 William and Elizabeth at Pringle Baskin's. (FSU. A brother-in-law of Dr. William Patton. Married to his wife's sister.)
 May 22 James Archibald, son of Edward Mays died.
 June 10 Great storm of wind and rain.
 June 10, Sunday Thermometer 2 o'clock evening 85 and great storm of wind no rain black clouds in detached sheets and thrown down trees, fences. We had 49 trees in 23 acre field and fence all around. We thought it strange day like no other.
 July 2 First discovered Ned [slave] to be eating dirt.
 July 4 Barbecue at Newton White's old house.
 July 10 William Patton and Martha E. Patton went to college commencement. Jefferson remained at home.
 July 19 Got receipt for semi-weekly *Union* up to May 1850.
 July 22 Joseph Cater's son born. River now high up.
 August 14 Got college report of standing in study. Walter averaged 81 and Jefferson 80. We began to pull fodder. Finished August 25th. Eleven days of taking care of fodder. Much good. August 1850 - we have yet 100 or 200 bundles of fodder.
 September My taxes this year paid for two years, \$52.50. The fruit of a bank policy I opposed at the time, believing it would lord its money loving chicanery over such as I with a vengeance and truly it does. I never received one cent of its accommodation directly or indirectly and was forced to accept the vile system knowing that for others to grow rich we would have to labor hard to refund it. It seems to have been easy to contrive a way to swindle. We could have perhaps done so too, but the thought is odious, a moral nausea. And there are a few who had would rather to be poor than thus to grow rich.
 Sept 3 We began to pick cotton and hands gathered in 10 days 7085 seed cotton. Sept 29th, corn is all cribbed and 8000 lb. of cotton gathered. Corn crop good. About 10 loads or 200 bushels more than last year. 27 loads filled our two largest cribs. August 22, 1850, we have about 60 or 70 bushels old corn.
 Sept 4 John Parham and Martha Mays married.
 Sept 12 Wiley Dunn's son born.
 Sept 18 John Knox and Juliette Mays married.
 October 5 Rode home from Ryall Price's in night as dark as blackness. Minter's Creek at Ephm. Knox's and branches below Esq. Crawford's and Elias Cockrell's out all over the flat land and we knew not where the fords were, but gave ourselves in the crisis freely to the Power that rules destiny and all was safe. The creek was over our own bridge near to home.
 October 6 Mrs. Snoddy died.

October 13 One of my many bad night ride. Left Madison Dunn's about ten o'clock. Was raining and soon began to rain harder and to blow a rumpus. Oh! How dark and the road we all know is miserable indeed and such a dark wet stormy ride is not soon to be forgotten. Oh! If all were fairly painted in my 36 years of pill piddling the bits so acquired would not be coveted by the chicken hearted, nor is it by your humble servant, William Patton. August 22nd, 1850.

October 20 Put a power of attorney into P. Office to E.L.R. Patton over a piece of land in Indiana. (WP. March 3rd [1850] received a letter from E.L.R. Patton dated Texas, Jany 28th, 1850, acknowledging the receipt of above power of attorney.)

Dec 12 The thermometer is 28 at 4 o'clock in the morning.

Dec 25 Sale of property of Luke Thornton, deceased.

1850

January Was a very wet month, cool, but not cold. The first & fifth day thermometer was down in the morning to 22 & for a week nearly so. There were but six or seven fair days in Jany. On the 7th of Jany William Patton started to Mobile and returned on the 16th instant. There has been something remarkably regular in Saturday being the wettest day of the week for many weeks January and after, especially Saturday afternoon was sure to be wet.

Jany 1 I returned from Tuscaloosa.

Jany 10 In Mobile sold 17 bales of cotton at 11¢.

Jany 14-21 William Dunn much distressed with pneumonia.

Jany 16 Met Amos Lay at Esq. Allen's, law question.

Jany 17 Ashur Pearson's son born.

January 18 James Knox, son of Isaac Knox, died.

Jan 21 Received a circular from Dr. Manley and Professor Garland on business of the University of Alabama.

Jany 22 Warrior River quite high, but lacked a few inches of being as high as it was in 1849.

Jan 23 Finished ginning cotton.

Jan 26 P.J. Lucius son born.

February Was a very variable month in temperature. Not so wet as January.

Feb 1 William Mays daughter born. Dr. Snoddy there.

Feb 2 Abner E. Patton strained his foot badly and on Feb. 14th could walk but little.

February 4 The thermometer 7, in the morning was 21 and for 24 hours was not higher than 32 and for a week was low.

February 13 Snow commenced falling 9 o'clock night and continued to fall briskly until 11 o'clock the next day, but melted as fast as it fell. Thermometer at 36 or 38.

Feb 22 I went up to Tuscaloosa on the *William Bradstreet* steamboat. The trip was 31 hours.

Feb 23 Bought Judy mule from E.D. Biffle, Williamsport, Tennessee. Three years old April next. Paid \$105.

March The fore part of the month was spring-like and pleasant, but on the 27th snow began to fall 8 o'clock morning and continued near half the day with a driving north wind. Thermometer at 38, so it melted as it fell. We had frost and ice plenty. I had some corn up. A moderate supply left. Some fruit killed.

March 2 Received letter from E.L.R. Patton, Texas, dated Jan 26, 1850.

March 2 Learned from A.J. Gillespie's letter that William Gillespie got to California.

March 4 I subscribed to *Saturday Pst* [sic]. Paid \$1.00 to G.W. Knox.

March 4 Swapped my old horse Pomp 13 years old to G.W. Burnette for roan and gave \$90.00 to boot.

March 5 Sold gray pony to Robert Losson for \$20.00 and on March 12th sold little Johnny mule to Celeste Williams for widow Haguegood for \$10.00, 22 years

- old at least.
- March 31 Walter and Jefferson returned to college. We saw some snow on the road.
- March 31 John Caldwell Calhoun departed this life in the city of Washington. We remember well when Mr. Calhoun was first elected to Congress and how well our Revolutionary fathers of that day were pleased with his first efforts. We remember well to have heard them say he is a bright young man, an ornament to his state and country. He served them faithfully, and how constantly and steadfastly. South Carolina sustained him history will show. But he has gone as all flesh must go. The grief of South Carolina is deep and sincere. He was born in Abbeville District, South Carolina, March 18th, 1782; consequently 68 years and 13 days old at the time of his death. The history of his life is intimately interwoven with the history of his country for 40 years.
- April Was a month of cold, rain and flood. The last of April and the first day of May, we had a great flood in the river, one of the greatest that has ever been, considerable higher than the flood of 1849, about 18 inches higher. The river was over J. Noble Steele's about 3 feet and into J.T. Brown's store house and yet for some cause few mosquitoes succeeded to this great spring, compared to most other years. As yet, August 23rd, no uncommon amount of fever.
- April 12 Martha E. Patton went to her Grandmother Steele's with W.S. Patton. She went to stay some weeks and returned home with me May 2nd.
- April 13 Mrs. Spain died.
- April 14 Walter, Jefferson, myself, and Derry [slave] went to Tuscaloosa.
- May [Long weather report.]
- May 4 Paid Amanda Archibald for schooling for 1849 \$8.25.
- May 6 Election at M. Knox's for Judges of Probate Court. Capt. Moore and Esq. Evans candidates; Evans elected by 19 votes majority in county.
- May 26 Received seed corn from James Gillespie by Thomas J. Drummond and Laban R. Moore who removed at this time to this neighborhood.
- May 28 Berkshire hog and playful kitten died with apoplexy to all appearances and head affections existed uncommonly with all people this summer.
- May 29 Finished wheat. 123 dozen only.
- May 29 Taxes assessed at M. Knox's by Ratlife for 1850. Same day census taken by Strother. Population only.
- May 30 Bought of John Clark Shakespeare's works 1 volume illustrated.
- June 13 W.S. Patton came home for 36 hours on livery stable horse and returned to town in the morning of the 15th instant. He remained up there until the 24th instant. I sent Derry with horse and he came home remained here until July 5th. Walter went up to Tuscaloosa on the 6th of July. Jefferson came down home and returned back to Tuscaloosa Tues 9th and I went up on Wed 10th and did not get there until the exercises for the graduating class were over, and on Thurs the 11th we all came home!
- June 14 Miss Amanda Archibald's school ended.
- June 27 [Weather report.]
- July 4 A barbecue at Jonathan Philips. On the 4th of July, Capt. Peter Hamilton was murdered in his field by four young Negro fellows known by the names of Old Joe, Young Joe, Bill, and Jack. The Sunday before they had plundered the orchard and left home without permission. They went down in the neighborhood of the River and obtained whiskey, probably for the fruit as they had whiskey obtained dishonestly by their own admission, but would not say where they got it for the steeple of the smokehouse had not been drawn on as they stated. Captain Hamilton whipped some of them on Monday morning for these offenses a little, but little, their backs were examined by the Coroner's Court, but little sign of whipping to be seen. That evening, Monday evening, they entered into a conspiracy to kill their master. Too much indulged, self-exalted, and proud they could not bear to be checked in their crimes, they nursed the bloody purpose until rendered desperate by being denied the 4th of July as a holiday, they execute the