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## EDITORS

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THE TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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## JOURNAL OF AMMON UNDERWOOD, 1834-1838\*

CONTRIBUTED AND EDITED BY JAMES K. GREER

Marion 1st March 1836

In case of my death  
the following pages are  
to be forwarded with the  
most Sacred care to my  
Brother Lendol Underwood  
Lowell or Dracutt Mass.

AMMON UNDERWOOD

## JOURNAL

[1834]

On the 30th jan' 1834 I left my native abode and took my departure for Texas. My youngest brother much to my gratification offered to accompany me as far as Boston and to procure for our conveyance a horse and slay. Having proceeded as far as Woburn, [Mass.], the roads proving much worse than we expected we concluded to stop for the night and the next morning left our horse and slay and took the stage for the city where we arrived about 12 o'clock M.

\*Ammon Underwood was born at Dracut, Massachusetts, February 13, 1810. He was the son of Asa and Mercy Durant Underwood. Asa was a farmer and believed in hard work but his son Ammon, one of eight children was glad to go "adventuring." In 1834, at the age of twenty-four, he took passage from Boston for Texas. He settled in Columbia and for more than half a century witnessed the changes in the government of his adopted state. He early engaged in the mercantile business and prospered. But in the sixties his heavy investments in "King Cotton" were so bound up in the fortunes of the Confederacy, that when the cause was lost he was approximately one-half million dollars poorer. This tremendous loss had not prevented this old merchant from rendering great service to Texas. (Moses Austin Bryan to A. Underwood, Independence, July 19, 1877.) He was a member of the nineteenth Legislature, representing Galveston and Brazoria Counties. He died beloved, respected, eldest citizen of Columbia, November 17, 1887. His wife, two sons and two daughters, J. P. and J. C. Underwood, and Mrs. Diggs and Mrs. Borden survived him. The original of this diary is owned by Miss Laura Underwood, daughter of J. P. Underwood, Columbia, Texas, but the Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas, possesses a photostat copy, and has presented a photostat copy to the Library of the University of Texas.



As no vessel was ready to sail immediately, I procured board for myself and brother at M. Simeon Smiths. The next day [there] arrived in the city my friend Mr. Thomas Cochrane and likewise Mr. Robert Cochrane who had concluded to accompany us. The 2d of feb' my brother returned. When I shall again be permitted to see him and the rest of my connections and friends, dearer to me than myself, I cannot tell. How hard it is to deny ourselves the pleasure of the society of those we love, and, from the harbour of social friendship, to launch upon the changing sea of fluctuating fortune. The sacrifice and self denial is great indeed. To wander from *Home—Kindred—Friends* with whom we passed our earliest childhood, how hard the task!

Feb' 11th left Boston on board the fine new ship Hobart, whereof Capt Sprague is master, for the city of N. Orleans—crew drunk quarrelsome and noisy—wind high anchored for the night in Presidents roads. Next morning got under way. In sight of land the whole day[.] 13th. Land in sight this morning, but lost sight of it during the day,—aniversary of my birth, and the first time in my life that I have ever been beyond the sight of land, although, I have been [on] a number [of] coasting voyages. Very seasick myself as also friend T. Cochrane, a fellow traveler G. M. Haynard. Feb' 19th discovered a vessel but did not come with-in hail—the first vessel seen since we left sight of land. She proved a bark bound northward. Feb 22d birthday anniversary of the greatest of heroes, the noblest of patriots and the wisest of statesmen—In latitude of St. Augustine wether warm and pleasant. Yesterday and to-day are the only pleasant days we have had since we left the metropolis of my native state, and I am partially recovered from the very unpleasant indisposition of seasickness[.] All on board appear more cheerfull and all countenances assume a brighter aspect.

March 3, Made the land this evening[.] it proved the island of Abico where there is a dangerous place caled the Hole in the wall, which has proved fatal to numerous as fine vessels as ever spread their flowing canvass upon the bosom of the boundless ocean, as well as to the life of many a dauntless marriner whose bones have been left to bleach upon the beach.

March 4th. This morning we find ourselves moving, with a gentle breeze, throug[h] the transparent waters of the great Bahama Bank, with the Berry islands close upon our larboard. The

sight even of these barren islands after we had been so long upon the boundless ocean was quite a feast to our eyes as we gazed upon them with eager delight. The water here is so transparent that the bottom is discoverable at almost any depth, and in the evening when the moon shone brightly upon them the light which they reflected untill it reached even to the zenith could be seen, and is discoverable at a great distance, bearing, in its appearance, a very strong resemblance to the northern lights, as they frequently appear to a person, observing them from almost any part of N. England. March 6th. Early this morning we were in sight of the Island of Cuba. 11th Boisterous weather again. Myself and others, again quite sea-sick

12th We were this morning boarded by a pilot though not yet in sight of land[.] The waters of the gulf change colour and become quite muddy from the waters of the Mississippi which pours out its immense quantities near this place. March 15th We were this morning taken in tow by the steamer Pilot. We arrived the next day in the city, having been about 24 hours on our passage up the river[.] It was the sabbath but it was very differently observed from the manner in which that day is noticed in northern cities most kinds of business were progressing as usual. No person can be surprised at the unhealthy state of the city after having once visited it. Having purchased a small stock of groceries we shipped them on board the schooner Empress on board of which we took passage for Bell's landing Texas.—Somewhat perplexed by [by] the false stories of the captain who is continually delaying to sail from time to time. March 26th very agreeably surprised by the unexpected arrival in this city of Mr. James Cochrane, April 8th Left the city this day on board the Schooner Empress[.] Mr. T Cochrane concluded to remain and accompany his brother.—Fare on board quite coarse and rough. Sat 12th experienced a severe gale but suffered but little injury[.] Apr' 15th made the land but found ourselves quite out of our latitude being nearly down to the mouth of the Sabine. 18th[.] arrived at Velasco a small town at the mouth of the Brazos, and famous for the battle of Velasco, in which a Mexican garrison was reduced by the American emigrants resident in Texas. 21st Arrived at Brazoria having been 13 days on our passage from N. Orleans.

After having remained a few days in Brazoria I proceeded up



the river as far as Bell's landing in a peroague, a kind of boat dug out of a large logue. Here I found my friends Messrs. Thomas and James Cochrane who had proceeded up before me[.] after having remained some time at Bells landing we made the preperations to proceed to San Felipe by purchasing horses &c. May 3d we took our departure for the above place viz, myself, and Messrs James and Thomas Cochrane. Having proceeded about 14 miles we stopped to take some refreshment beside a creek and to rest our horses and as mine had been reckomended as perfectly gentle and easy to be caught I let [him] go to graze but he concluded not to be caught so I had to walk back on foot to Columbia whare my hores had arrived before me. Feeling somewhat vexed at [the] fals[e] recommendations of the person of whom I had purchased him I concluded as he had not received his pay for the horse to make [him] receive him back again; So I procured me another horse and on the 4th of may started a second time for San Felipe whare I arrived on the 7th. On the 11th I was taken ill a fever succeeded and I was reduced very low[.] after having partially recovered from the billious[ness] I was atacked with the fever and ague which I have had intermitingly untill the first Oct' June 9th Had the satisfaction of receiving some letters from my friends in N England the first time I have heard from home since I left.

July 25th Witnessed this day the execution of Joseph Clayton who was condemned and executed for the murder of an old man by the name of Abner Kuykingdol—Had the pleasure of meeting in this place an old acquaintance by the name of Rufus Right who was formerly a clerk in his uncles store within one and a half miles from my fathers. July 27th left San felipe for Columbia whare arrived on the 29th

Aug' 1st Witnessed for the first time in my life the disgusting, disgracefull sight of seeing a young man . . . tared and feathered and afterwards promernaded about town upon an old white horse for having it is said been guilty of an atack upon the Chastity of a married woman

Oct 17th Met with Mr. James Cochrane in this town (Columbia) who offered to furnis[h] me in company with his brother a very handsome capital provided we would remain in the country and enter upon mercantile business in the upper settlements

20th frost was seen in low places in this country[.] 26th

Left Columbia on my journey to N. Orleans[.] Arrived in Brazoria same day. Procured passage on board the Sch' Dart bound to new Orleans and proceeded down the river on our voyage. Having arrived at Velasco the number of passengers where [were] greatly augmented on account of the Empress having been condemned as unseaworthy

Nov 11th Passengers and pilot all on board[.] got under way about 6½ O'clock A. M. but ran immediately upon the bar where we remained thumping for about 4 hours when we were so unfortunate as to get over[.] Our Capt' who to drown trouble had in the mean time got quite intoxicated determined to put to sea in opposition to the united request of all the passengers, excepting one, on board, there being twenty-five in number, and the pumps were kept continually agoing[.] The wind was strong and favourable and drove us on our course at the rate of 8 nots. Night soon drew her sable curtains around us and we being wet and fateagued soon retired to our berths. In vain did I court the smiles of morpheus[.] "Tired nature's calm restorer balmy sleep" refused to spread his veil of oblivion over my weary, agitated senses; and the realities of our situation, and the gloomy prospects before us were to[o] agonizing to permit me to take the least repose. The sound of the pumps was incessant. Still we were speeding our way from the land at the rate of 8 nots. About 10, O'clock all on board were called. Our case was becoming, momentarily, more dangerous[.] The sailors had become exhausted withh fateague, and though both pumps had been kept continually agoing the water in the vessel had continued to increase untill it was already over the cabbin floor on the leaside of the vessel[.] In this situation there was no allternative but to work and our lives was the price of our labour[.] Persons who before had never been used to labour were now ready to take there turn at the pumps or at the buckets as their fellow suffers became exauste[d] with fateague. Not only were both pumps kept in opperation but we dipped up the water from the cabbin and passed it up the companion way in buckets. In this way we continued to work during the whole of the night which was chill and dark. But when first called on deck we demanded of the capt to put for the nearest land he could make, which was nearly on the back track, and he immediately called the crew aft, with whom he held a consultation, all of whom, with one



voice, pronounced the vessel in a sinking condition. Our capt put her about but still continued so badly intoxicated that we did not dare trust him at [the] helm and by a little policy induced him to give up the helm to the mate and go below where he soon fell into a sound sleep from which he did not awake untill about daylight. How uncomfortable was our situation. Cold and wet and worn down with fateague still our spirits were buoyed up with the hope that when morning dawned land would be discoverable, but how was the ardour of our feelings dampened, when morning dawned, but no land was discoverable to our longing eager eyes, not even from [the] mast head. As we were nearly worn out with fateague I proposed that we should divide into two watches and one watch should work at a time and give the other an opportunity to get some rest and refreshment; and to keep the cook continually at his task. In this way we were enabled to keep her so that she was manageable and about 3, O'clock P. M. that most desirable of all sights Land presented itself to our view. The clouds ahead however were black and lowering and we were much in fear that a norther would spring up, in which case all of us must have been consigned to a watery grave. The breeze however continued to blow gently and about ten of the clock that night we were enabled to run our vessel upon the beach. As soon as we found she was fast ashore the pumps were abandoned and in less than 2 hours the cabbin was filled with water[.] We had just sufficient time to get our baggage provisions and bedding upon deck. The breakers would strike her with great violence some time drenching the deck with the spray and causing her whole frame to crack and tremble. Still our condition was so much more safe and consequently more desirable that all on board was exultation. We remained on board during the rest of the night and the next morning we all got safely on shore. We imiediatly sent to Velasco and procured conveyance for our baggage and arrived safely that night at Velasco.

Nov 14th[.] arrived this day at the mouth of the Brazos Schrs' San Felipe and Ringleader the latter of which drawing to[o] much water concluded not to attempt to come into the river and on the 17th Nov we got on board and sailed for N. Orleans. Nothing of importance occured during this voyage except that we ran past the mouth of the river about 70 miles to[o] far eastward.

We arrived on the 23d in N. Orleans happy to reach the city in safety on the second attempt.

Here I am doomed to suffer from disapointment and imposition, more painfull and more distressing to my mind than the dangers of the seas, when suffering shipwreck, and when death stared me in the face upon all sides. The case is as follows viz— When arrived in N Orleans I was induced by Robert Cochrane, in company with himself to purchase an asortment of tin ware and a quantity of groceries to ship to Texas, but for certain reasons he induced me to let him ship them in his name. After having arrived at Bell's landing I proceeded in company with Messrs Cochranes (brothers) to San Felipe he proposing to follow in a few days, After having remained four days in San Felipe I was taken sick and did not recover untill autumn, during which time he had sold out all of the articles imported into this country by us for which he had taken notes in his own name and no acount of said goods could I ever obtain.

So I settled with him as much to my advantage as it was in my power but was obliged to accept of what he saw fit to give me. Most that I obtained however was in notes. I received a small amount in cash and his draft for fifty dollars on a merchant in N. Orleans. This was refused when presented[.] I had a twenty dollar note still in my pocket; this however I soon ascertained to be counterfeit[.] I was therefore in a strange city without friends, acquaintances or money, without ocupation in rather a feeble state of health and more than two thousand miles distant from any of my friends to whom I could apply for assistance in my needfull situation. In this situation I was obliged to sell my watch for less than half its value in order to raise money to defray my necessary expenses

To return to Texas then provided I could possibly get there without money was my best plan, and to collect the small sum due me there and then either go into business, in that country, or return to happy N. England. With this view I was enabled to procure a passage on board the Helen Mae bound to Brazoria, and Bells landing.

Dec 3[.] left N. Orleans again for Texas and am now on my way down the rive[r] towed by the steamer Ocean. On the evening of the 7th we made the land[.] it proved the west end of galveston



island[.] saw the steamer Cayuga put about for the mouth of the river—Wind strong and we are speeding our way with great rapidity towards the mouth of the Brazos. Night overtook us and the capt lay the vessel too for the night but about 4 O'clock the next morning we were beached[.] The night was chill and dark for the moon had disappeared below the western horizon We remained on board the wreck the rest of the nigh[t] and next day Dec, 8th all got safely ashore[.] The weather was severely cold and in going ashore we, most of us got thoroughly drenched[.] It being a long time before we were enabled to procure any fire we suffered severely[.] We had on board a fammily consisting mostly of feemales who were almost bewildered with fear[.] Our first care after having got safely on shore ourselves was to save first provisions and sails from the wreck to build a tent and likewise all the water we had on board[.] The next object was to save our baggage the most of which we got, safely, on shore though some of us went imiediatly in different directions for the purpose of making discoveries yet we were not enabled to ascertain our situation during this day

All returned to camp at night and the next day I in company with two of my fellow passengers started taking with us some sea bread water &c. determined to camp out that night or find some inhabitants from whom we migh[t] learn our situation[.] We proceeded up the beach w[h]ile others took different directions but having traveled about 6 or 7 miles we came to a creek whare we made a raft of logs on which we attempted to cross the creek but our raft came to pieces in the attempt and we got a thorough ducking. Having all got safely across we proceeded up the beach untill we came to a small river, whare we found some negroes whom I happened to know from whom we learned that we were at the mouth of the Bernard[.] they ferryed us across and soon provided us with a fine dish of fresh fish[.] After having freely partook of this very savory repast my two companions started on their return to the wreck[.] As I was quite worn down with fateague I concluded to remain and dispatched the two negroes next morning to fetch me some necessary articles of my baggage[.] Having furnished me with some oysters sweet potatoes and a vension ham previous to their departure I remained here in an old half covered log hut whare I had the sand for a bed, keeping up a fire night

and day[.] The noise of the breakers as they rolled in extensive ridges and broke and dashed furiously upon the beach continually greeted my ears, and now and then the hoarse voice of geese and brant with various kinds of sea fowl whose resort is the most lonely desert greeted me with their lonely voices

The third day after my arrival one of the negroes returned bringing with him the articles for which I had sent[.] I remained there that night and the next morning took my departure. Little did I imagine how hard a task was before me the whole prairie through which I had to pass was inundated with water and some places I was obliged to wade through where the water was up to my shoulders. Having proceeded 15 miles I arrived at the house of Mr G McNeil[.] He was absent from home but I was received very hospitably by his Lady who instantly provided me [with] an excelent repast. Feeling somewhat refreshed, thoug[h] very politely invited to spend the night I concluded to proceed as far as Brazoria. Having passed the much admired and paternall abode of the McNeils I was hailed by a servant who was sent to call me back and immiediatly met by Mr Leander McNeil whose invitation I conclude[d] to accept and returned with him to the house. Here I found a gentleman of my acquaintance by the name of Williamson who kindly offered to furnish me with a mule if I would wait and accompany him. This I concluded to do and after remaining two days at the house of Mr McNeil I took my departure for San Felipe wia Brazoria and Columbia at both of which places I found persons who were very much surprised to see me so soon return to Texas.

Dec, 14th Arrived at San Felipe where I found my friends all in tolerable health

[1835]

Jan 8th attended a Ball at the Tavern of Messrs. Gay & Adams given in honour of the arrival, at San Felipe, of the steamer Cayuga—The first Ball I have ever attended in Texas—nothing is danced but Spanish reels[.] 15th Left San Felipe on Board the steamboat—got aground same day; next day, all efforts to get her off proving ineffectual, we left in the yawl and arrived at the house of Mr. James Jones. Left Mr. Jones'es on the 18th and arrived same day at Mr T. Bordens. A few days after I had a horse sent me from Mr. Henry Jones'es and proceeded



to his residence—crossed the river and proceeded on some business as far as Mr A McFarlins returned again to Mr. H Jones'es. Left Mr. Jones and arrived in San Felipe 26th Jan'[,] Feb' 11th Started to Mr Fosters to be preasant at the weding of Mr. James Cochrane[.] Returned to San Felipe 13th [the] Aniversary of my birth—

Mr. Cochrane verry generously renewed his promis[e] to assist his Brother and myself to a stock of goods provided I would remain in the country and his Brother would move his wife to Texas

This we have about concluded to comply with. Though the country is unhealthy and though the society is by no means desirable yet the prospects which offer for speculation is some inducement to remain. As I was employed in no very important business I undertook the management of the San Felipe hotell for a short time for Mrs. Payton whare I commenced on the 16th.

March 27th, Time flies nothing however worthy of note occurs with regard to future prospects—nothing worthy of note has been done as yet[.] The new attempt on the part of the Mexican Government to compel merchants to pay the duties on imported articles render our future prospects rather uncertain[.] I have sometimes half a mind to secure some land in this country and then return to the United States[.] Land, even in this sickly country must, notwithstanding the unhealthiness of the climate, soon, on account of the fertility of the Soil become very valuable. The uncommonly large crops of cotton it produces will, when generally known, be a sufficient spur to emigration the amount of which for the last 3 monts greatly exceeds the amount for the same period of time since the first white settlements were made in the country

March 27th Had the pleasure of seeing in this place a gentleman from Boston Mass a man whom I had often seen in Lowell. He left on his return on the 30th to the U. States His name is Norton formerly an officer of the customs in the city of Boston.

In the early part of May I left the tavern whare I had been engaged and commenced rambling about the country an employment in which I take much pleasure

On the 10th May Mr. J. Cochranes cotton boat left the landing at San Felipe and was sunk the same day about 7 miles below town[.] I was dispatched to Mr J. Jones'es to intercept any

floating bales that might come down the river[.] Here I remained the two succeeding days and nights keeping watch continually on board of a cotton boat which had arrived to the shoals in a place which we named Galadega bend but as no cotton came down that far I concluded to return to town[.] The whole of the cotton with the exception of one bale was saved and got on to the flat again but [we] were enabled to proceed no farther than the above place viz, Galadega bend

Mr. J. Cochrane and myself had prepared and were just ready to start when a messenger arrived to town bring the information that the boat could not proceed.

Having prepared a letter of instructions Mr J. Cochrane requested me to start in order to overtake three teams which were on their way to Columbia and to induce them to go round by the way of the cotton boat and take a load for Columbia landing, but did not succeed they wishing evidently to take the advantage of circumstances so I returned to Capt Allens where I left the letter of instructions sending him a not[e] of the circumstance to town, Monday morning May 18th left Capt M. Allens and ar'd the same evening in Columbia. Here I found a horse of mine which was astray[.] A teamster had found him and brought him to this place. On Sat. May 9th I arrived in San Felipe[.] Soon After . . . [Here one leaf of the Journal is missing.]

[Endeavored to hurry Mr Cochrane as] much as possible with his cotton there being a vessel waiting to take it

Having ar'd in town Monday the 25th I found Mr Cochrane absent. [May] 26th Central Committee in session—Passengers present who were on board the Ma[r]tha which was taken by the Mexican armed vessel Montazuma May 3d and likewis[e] some who were on board the Columbia captured by the same vessel on the 9th[.] News of the change of the republican form of government and other proceeding of the Mexican government enacting laws unfavourable to Texas produces great political excitement

Left San Felipe again on the 27th in company Mr J R Jones who proposed to furnish me with a handsome assortment of goods to take to Bastropp to sell either in company or he would pay me a handsome salary

I was however under an engagement of similar nature to Mr J Cochrane, San Felipe



I ar'd in Columbia on the 28th and undertook for a short time as I was unemployed to take charge of Wm J Eatons Gaming and Drinking establishment commencing on the 29th May[.] On the 30th My friend Mr Jas. Cochrane arrived in this town

On the 2d June his brother, Friend Thos. C[ochrane], arrived with a flat boat freighted with cotton. The next day but one after they had all on board the Santiago amounting to 160 bales[.] That evening the vessel took fire which was discovered about 11, O'Clock at night. The fire was stoped about 10 o clock the next morning. Loss about fifty bales cotton damaged and destroyed and the schooner badly injured. It is supposed the fire took from a segar having been left on a bale cotton with fire on it. Cotton insured the vessel not insured

On tusday evening June 9th friend Thos. took his departure from this place (Columbia), and proceeded down the river in a boat by whom I sent letters to my beloved friends and relation. He being the only particular friend with whom I have ever made myself intimate in this country I cannot but feel a regret and heaviness of spirit at loosing that only associate, whom, I esteem and prize so highly. Having ever been habbituated to much society from my early childhood and that of strict religion and morality I cannot possibly feel sattisfied to be surrounded by such society as is found all most universally in this new beautifull, but, wild and uncultivated country. Anxiety will be the companion of my bosom untill the return of my friend Thos. with some of my other friends and connections and inteligence from the rest.

The polittical State of this country is in such an unsettled condition that I am at an entire loss what to do. I cannot feel myself justified in trying to induce my friends to emigrate to this country under the present state of affairs. Commotions in the interior are continually taking place, and the instability and fickle state of the government becomes more and more aparrent daily. The San Felipe got over the bar on Saturday the 13th June in which Mr T. Cochrane was passenger

June 22 News of alarming depridations committed by the indians arrives allmost daily and people are moving out of many of the settlements into the nearest towns

On Sunday June the twenty eight a large meeting of the citizens of this jurisdiction assembled in this town to take into con-

sideration the preasent alarming state of affairs in this country resolutions were adopted committees chosen to confer with the polittial cheaf &c, to adopt some course and fix upon some plan for the security of the country.

Mr Jas Cochrane left for N Orleans on the 29th July[.] He expected to be detained a short time at the mouth of the river for the purpose of repairing the vessel on board of which his cotton has been shipped

The affairs of this Country are now in a very alarming situation and a thousand speculative rumors are afloat[.] What will be the final result no one can predicate to any degree of certainty[.] People in anticipation of a coming conflict begin to talk of removing their families out of the country &c. Rumour says that Santa Anna is now marching an army of some thousands of men to drive the colonists out of the Country, but it is hardly to be Credited; still the people are alarmed and much excitement exists

Some of the warmer politicians are for driving the war which they say cannot be avoided into their own Country and retaking the Governor and releasing him from the prison in which he has been placed by the commandant Gen' for opposing the assumed Dictatorial power of Santa Anna and for disposing of the publick lands in an unorthorized manner

July 8th The publick are still Highly excited[.] A small party lately went against a Mexican Garrison Stationed at An[a]huac which surrendered by cappitulation. The party were unauthorized and much of the Community in this section of the Country are highly excited against the conduct of the party and the course of those few, who were the leaders of the expedition, on account of the threatening aspect of the government against the Colonies as they have been preparing for some time an expedition against us and it is said that an army have allready taken up their line of march for this Country. The schooner Shanandoor just arrived from the U S of the North brings inteligence that a large number of troops were about to embark at Matamoras destined for Texas and they were chartering vessels for their conveyance

The Schooner Santiargo got out of the river on Sunday with friend J Cochrane on board

The San Felipe has arrived but I was highly disapointed by not



receiving letters by her She being the vessel on board of which friend Thos C—left

Aug' 3d Most of the volunteers for the indian campaign from this town and vicinity left here for Bastropp this day[.] A few individuals are using their utmost exertions to raise and keep up a continual excitement[.] Publick meetings upon publick meetings are Continually Called, for what purpose; w[h]ether Called by self interest or patriotism may be, to each reflecting mind, quite aparent.

Aug 8th Here I am in this little town of Columbia Texas a distance of three thousand miles from relations friends and acquaintances from all of whom I have banished myself without a cause—whose society I once thought necessary to my very existence but from whose friendly persuasions I fled for no earthly reason except to gratify a wild and rambling notion and I believe that I might know how justly to appreciate the society of beloved friends when I am so happy as to possess it

A Publick Meeting was held in this town on the 15th the avowed purpose of which was to ascertain by the voice of the people of this Jurisdiction wether they were or were not in favour of a convention of all Texas. Their proceedings were conducted with much intreague and deception knowing that a majorrity of the people were opposed to that measure for many pertinent reasons. To opperate as powerfully as possible upon the mind of the publick it was, the day preceeding the meeting reported that three Mexican armed vessels with soldiers on board had arrived of[f] and come to anchor at the mouth of the Brazos[.] This news opperated like an electrick shock on some but the story had not obtained full credit when news arrived that instead of Mexican vessels they were merchant vessels from N. Orleans but it was contradicted to[o] late to counteract the object which they intended to effect by circulating the story.

It is now the 20th Aug and I have heard nothing either from friend James nor Thos Cochrane since they left but by the blessing of God I have continued to enjoy uninterruptedly excelent health since their departure

Aug 30th The Birth day aniversary of my honoured Father my dear and aged parent[.] I had intended to devote a part of this day to writing to him but there is no prospect of any mode of

conveyance soon[.] Perhaps before this he has left this stage of action and sunk into the grave the home prepared for all living. Perhaps in his last agonies he has as my fond parent eer this time lispt a desire to see once more his distant abscent son[.] Would that I could this day dispatch to him and if living congratulate him on being preserved again to celebrate his birthday aniversary. My dear mother to[o] would not she be glad to hear from her distant fillial and most affectionate son. Thou wert the guardian angel of my earliest childhood, my mother! how can I say more? Brothers would that I could this day embrace you—Sister that I could hold thee to my bosom

Sept 1st[.] A brig loaded with lumber discharging her cargo as she lay at anchor off the mouth [of] the river was atacked by a Mexican schooner under command of Capt Thompson an englishman; there was three men taken from her and she taken posession off thay having on board no means of defence. The steamer Laura was imiediatly man[n]ed out and started to rescue the brig and was fired upon a number of times but sustained no injury. In the meantime the schooner Sanfelipe arrived with a rich and heavy frieight from N Orleans[.] Thompson drew of[f] his vessel to commence the atack upon the San Felipe. At considerable distance he commenced firing which he continued untill he came within speaking distance when he cried "Strike! God damn! you strike or I'll sink you"[.] the San Felipe imiediatly opened her ports upon him when he discovered to his great astonishment that the San Felipe was armed and imiediatly attempted to effect his escape but could not succed but was taken and brought safe to anchor at the mouth of the Brazos and subsequently sent to new Orleans for trial. The principal part of the cargo on board belonged to my friend Jas Cochrane[.] I had fondly anticipated receiving letters from friends but was again disapointed[.] My kindred have ceased to care for me—my former friends forGotten me: here I am a sojourner in a distant a forreign land. My friend and fellow wanderer Thos Cochrane in whom I have placed the most perfect confidence has failed to comply with his sacred promises of friendship which he gave me on his departure to commence a correspondence on his arrival at N Orleans and to visit my Connections and advise me of every thing relating to them of any importance



Sept 25th The war cry is raised[.] The soard is Gerded on[.] the war horse prepared and ready to be mounted. Much unanimity of feeling prevails at preasant[.] The volunteer list was opened in this place (Columbia) yesterday and nearly all the young folks have subscribed as volunteers to meet Gen Coss who is reported to have arrived at Copono with four hundred armed troops[.] There are about the same number at San Antonio with which corps he intends uniting and then make a decent upon Texas

Sept [October] 4th

[I] left Columbia for San Felipe as above [stated] ar'd at Mrs Powels and took lodgings for the night[.] Next morning a cold norther blew up it having rained severely during the night rendered the traveling very cold and unplasent[.] arrived in San Felipe about 7 O Clock same evening[.] all in Good health and Spirits

I remained in Mr Cochranes store to assist Mr Money while Mr C himself made a visit up the country: during his absence Mr Money Came to the Conclusion that the voice of his adopted Country Called for his aid and the day he arrived at home I had resolved to accompany him[.] the next morning was apointed to start and it of course required me to be very busy in preparing for the Campaign[.] not however expecting to move much beyond the warlupe [Guadalupe] we did not mak[e] preperation suitable to render us confortable on a longer Campaign[.]

On the 10 Nov [October] in company with Messrs Money, Gay, Doct Ewing Bailey[,], Hope Bracy[,], J R Jones Jr[,], and William Pruitt attended by a Mexican with a pack mule we took our departure for head quarters of the American volunteer Army

Firs[t] night [we] Camped on the Bernard thence proceded about 20 miles a day encamping every night under the open canopy of the heavens[.] on reaching Gonsales on the Warlupe [Guadalupe] we learned the army had taken their departure for and were on their march to San Antonio[.] We overtook them at the Sandys to [on? the] 6th day after our departure where they were encamped[.] Never had I though quite common in Texas had I encamped without tent or shelter of any kind[.] Sometimes the night was rendered highly uncomfortable by cold and rain[.] But the wether prove[d] more favourable than could have been anticipated.

[Oct.] 17 Army in motion this morning proceeded to Sea

Willy [Cibolo] and encamped[.] Here we remained untill the evening of the 21st[.] About sunset a division consisting of the company of Capt Faning, Halls to which I belonged and one other were sent out to surprise a party of Mexicans supposed to be encamped at the water Hole about 10 miles Distant and thence to proceed to the Salather [Salado?] and take our position[.] We met with no opposition and having arrived after traveling nearly all night passing through deep ravines which were so difficult and so slow to pass that it caused much detension in a division of about 200 men[;] Each horse occupying in his turn a little additional time so that much time would elapse before the rear of the division would get across[.] Nearly an hour would sometimes be required to cross one of the places

About 2 hours before daylight we arrived at the Salou [Salado] having crossed this stream expecting that a party of Mexicans were encamped in the vicinity we fastened our horses in the bushes and proceed[ed] with the utmost silence on foot to reconnoiter[.] having marched for about 2 hours and discovering nothing we returned to our horses. Daylight soon Gilded the eastern horizon and soon the main body of our army baggage &c. with Gen Austin at its head appeared in sight and as w[e] had confidently expected and looked for an attack by the whole body of the Mexican army we were very happy at being so strongly reinforced[.] but the courage of our enemy was not equal to our expectation and no attack was made[.] Some of their spies mounted ventured within hearing challenging the Americans but soon disappeared when pursued

Oct 23d A small skirmish between a small party of Americans and about 150 Mexicans near the Powderhouse 3 or 4 Mexicans reported to have been killed

Oct 25th About 100 Americans who had taken Possession of the Mission Esparda [Espada] wer[e] attacked by a body of about 200 Mexicans but the Mexicans soon retreated[.] a division consisting of about 150 Americans composed of the company to which I belonged and 2 others were attacked by the same party of Mexicans who had discovered us at a distance and were laying in ambush for us[.] they discharged their scopets upon us but without effect[.] the skirmish lasted about one hour[.] More than 500 hundred Guns were discharged upon us and the balls



whistled arround us in every dirrection but no one was injured[.] 3 or 4 Mexicans were reported to have been killed and 2 horses were left dead upon the field. [We] returned to camp about noon the Mexicans having retreated and left the field[.] In the evening of the same day much excitement was produced in camp by a number of persons who had been elected as representatives to the General Consultation of Texas they wishing to return to hold a session of the Convension and taking a vote of the army to that effect[.] The Army voted in favour of their return but after having had time for a little reflection Great excitement was produced and that being communicate[d] by the officers to head quarters that many of the volunteers declared they would return home if the members left camp the Gen held some conversation with the members who finally made known in camp that the members had concluded and declared their intension to remain untill the Campaign broke up or untill San Antonio was Taken[.] the next day head quarters were removed to the Mission Esparda and during the succeeding night the representatives and about 50 of the volunteers had left on their return home

Maj Faning had been dispatched during the night to take a position near the Mission Conception about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from Town[.] next morning the main body of the Army was put in motion; when we arrived at camp we had the satisfaction of learning that this divission had been atacked by about 400 Mexicans and had gained over them an important victory causing them to make a precipitate retreat leaving 17 dead and 2 mortaly wounded on the field[.] On the side of the Americans only one mortaly wounded, one 6lb Brass carronade [was] taken[.] Having encamped about 3 days at this position orders were issued to proceed and take our position above Town

On the 29th after dark the Army was put in motion and reached our position about 11 O Clock P. M.

Here we remained untill the 2d Nov when the division consi[s]ting of our company under Capt Swisher and 2 other companys ammounting to 110 men under command [of] Col Burlison proceeded and took up our position at the old mill within about 500 yds of town

Here they commenced and kept up for some time a caronading upon us but without effect[.] Nov 3 att[c]k made upon the

town this night in 3 divisions but nothing effected. [Nov.] 4th Left Camp on furlough in company with Gen W D C Hall P W Grayson W H. Secres McLen Bracy William Hall and others on the above date at 1/2 past 3 P M and arrived in San Felipe 1/2 past 9 O clock P. M. Here I found my old friend Jas Cochrane who appeared very glad to see me having been to[o] closely confined to business even to visit his wife who resided at her Fathers about 22 miles from Town[.] Having remained doing business for him untill Cristmas day his old cleark having returned I left for Columbia[.] On reaching this place I found my old friend Thomas Cochrane with his wife Brother and Sister had arrived in Texas[.] having remained upwards of a week at Columbia during which time I had posted up the books of W J Eaton [I] attended a very splen[did] ball at Fitchet & Gills and enjoy much of the society of my friend. I enjoyed . . . [Several pages of the Journal missing]

[1836]

March 1st News arrived yesterday by express 5 days from San Antonio that the small garrison of Americans ammounting to 150 men were atacked by the Mexicans ammounting to 2000 with Santa Anna at their head

A general and imiediate turnout of a great majority of our citizens will be the result. A Spirit to afford the most prompt posible aid to the few gallant citizens who are now in the field contending against twenty times their number is every whare manifest

March 3d, 4th, 5th Numerous atacks were sustained on each of the above days and the enemy repulsed with a loss of about 500 in killed and 600 or 700 wounded[.] On the Sixth reinforcements having arrived with Santa Anna at their head so as to augment their force to 5000 strong the fort was again atacked about daylight the works after a desperate engagement was carried and the whole garrison ammounting to 180 men Slaughtered[.] The number of the enemy killed and wounded in this last engagement amounted to more than a thousand men

The only persons who escaped to tell the horrid tale was a woman a Mrs Dickerson whose husband fell in the fort[.] A horse was given her and she in company with two negroes who were likewise set at liberty arrived safely at the american head quarters at



Gonzales[.] On receiving intelligence of the fate of the garrison at San Antonio Gen Houston immediately commenced his retreat to the Colorado having burned Gonzales[.] Orders were sent to Col Fannin to burn and blow up the fort at Labahia and to retreat in order to form a junction with Houston on the Colorado[.] He had proceeded no more than ten miles on his retreat when he was intercepted by 2700 Cavalry. He however continued to fight them having changed his course to regain the fort at which place he at last arrived

March 27th Report of Indian depredations to the eastward[.] Crossed the Brazos in company with seven others proceeded about 6 miles proved to be a false alarm[.] Recrossing the Brazos the horses got scared and knocked me into the river over the stern of the boat just as the boat struck the shore but I succeeded although I had on a very heavy lot of clothing ammunition &c with a rifle to swim on shore not even losing my rifle[.] I came dripping up the bank amid the acclamations of a large number of women & men who had assembled on the bank

March 29th On my first arising from my bed this morning I was informed that a man by the name of Bradley had stolen a pair of cart wheels that lay on the bank of the river belonging to W C White & Co[.] I got a young man by the name of Howel to go with me and proceeded to take them from him having made an unsuccessful demand to have them returned[.] as I came in sight of his house he came out and met me but as I reprimanded him rather roughly he ran to his house I following close to his heels[.] As he turned the corner of his house he caught up a musket and leveled at me. I sprang behind a cart he fired at the distance of ten paces his musket loaded with three balls which passed on both sides of me but none of them touched me[.] Four more loaded guns were setting at his feet[.] I sprang forward to secure them he dropped his musket and ran[.] There were two or three other men at his house and I knew not but that I might be attacked by the others and intended to secure the arms[.] I proceeded to discharge them and one musket not going off[f] I broke it across a tree[.] Bradley thought the guns were discharged at him and took down the river bank into the river he swam down stream about one hundred yards and then came out on the same side and took into a cane brake[.] In the mean time news was carried to

Columbia that I had been shot in the head and either killed or dangerously wounded and Mr W C White John Dinsmore Gen Brown and Stephen M Hale came riding in to the landing post haste to ascertain the truth and secure the villian[.] They appeared quite supprised at finding me in good health, and attending to business as usual

A young man by the name of White who had been decieved by Bradley and assisted in taking the w[h]eels I compelled to take the w[h]eels off the cart, fery them back across the river and put them in the place from which he took them and with the addition of a few admonitions told him that [I] should excuse him from the crime he had committed

March 20 Col Fannin surrendered his force amounting to 450 men to about 1500 of the enemy[.] According to the terms stipulated they were to remain eight days prisoners of war and then to leave on parole to serve no more against Mexico[.] After they had laid down their arms [and] before the time they were to have left they were marched out in different divisions and directions and [the enemy] attempted to masacree the whole[.] Only about 15 men made their escape[.] Others landing in ports that had fallen into the hands of the enemy were masacreed without being able to make opposition

San Felipe de Austin was burned about the last of march by the inhabitants who had deserted the place[.] Much property of value was consumed[.] April 10th Our little Navy appears to be doing something[.] One prize was taken consisting of a vessel laden with stores for the army of Santa Anna amounting to 400 Barrels Flour and a large quantity of Coffee and Sugar. The vessel was lost coming into Matagorda bay some of the cargo was saved[.] This first prize was taken by the Government schooner Equity [commanded by] Capt Wm Brown[.] News has just arrived of the capture of a valuable prize a brig laden with stores for the Enemy

March 11th Inteligence has just arrived by a man taken prisoner at Labah[i]a that the enemy amounting to about 1500 men are crossing the Colerado

The whole country that have not allready gone having remained untill the Enemy are allmost upon them and men women and children are oblige[d] to fly with scarcely sufficient food and other



necessaries of life to support human nature[.] In one word the whole country are in a state of great distress

Apr 14th Crossed the river last evening and spent the night at the deserted house of C D Sayer[.] Started early next morning[.] came up with company viz. Mr Dinsmore & Mr Fitchet[.] got some Breakfast and proceeded[.] on our arrival at Mr Scobies in Balys prairie we were informed that we could not crost the country to the eastward without falling into the hands of the Mexicans as they had allready reached Harrisburg[.] We however feeling reluctant at being surrounded in the woods concluded to try our chance to escape across the country[.] On the night of the 14th we encamped on Chockolate bayou and on the 15th arrived at the San Jacinto at Lynch's ferry and encamped without crossing[.] The next morning was rainey and we did not get our horses over and get started untill noon[.] 16th proceeded to Cedar bayou and encamped[.] 17th Arived this day at the Trinity found large numbers of people waiting to cross and before we got over news arrived at the ferry that the Mexican Cavalry had arrived at Lynch's ferry and was endeavouring to cross[.] Lynches ferry is distant from the Trinity ferry only 25 miles[.] this caused much confusion the women and children were hurried across without baggage and provisions[.] We got across during the evening [and] found the family of Mr Fitchet[:] proceeded about 5 miles and encamped[.] 18th Arrived this day at..... ferry on the Nache[s] fond it difficult to cross and proceed 12 miles further down to McKinney's Bluff[.] found a large number of p[e]ople assembled at this point and [they] were crossing round on to an Island in the Sabine lake

On the 21 in company with Mr Dinsmore and an old sailor known by the name of Happy Jack whom I loaned a horse having 3 along with me, we proceeded to the ferry whare we remained till the evening of the 22d when we received the inteligence of the splendid victory obtained on the 21st by the American arms over Santa Anna and his army and on the 24th news arrived that Santa Anna himself and most of his principal officers wher prisoners in camp

I Loaned one of my horses to a Mr C R Patten left the other and the private papers money and other baggage belonging to Col James Knight in care of Mr Dinsmore and started on my return

in company with Mr R M Forbes resolved to reach Marion with as much haste as possible for fear that whatever goods or merchandize had been left by the Mexicans would be plundered by the Americans[.] We arrived at Columbia Landing (Marion) after having traveled through a depopulated country [for] 150 miles in a half starved manner[.] on the 2d May I was the first person except one belonging to the landing who got back and found everything in the most glorious confusion[.] On the 11th [the] Steamer Yellowstone arrived with a large number of women and children[.] On the 12th arrived the Laura bringing W C White & Col Knight I had got things pretty well righted.

Our Cabinet about the first of June were about to send their illustrious prisoner Gen Santa Anna to Veracruz but after he had embarked on board Govt Sch[ooner] Invincible the people interfered, kept the capt of the Sch' who by the way was not much in favour of the plan of operations and demanded of the cabinet that Santa Anna should be Brought immediately on shore. Thir petition or rather requisition was soon complied with and Sata Anna was again put und[er] strong guard.

About the 15th news arrived of a new in-vasion the enemy were said to be advancing again upon Texas to the number of ten thousand strong[.] A call was made for the people to turn out universally and to teach the audacious foe the sequel to the lesson given them at the battle of Sanjacinto[.] The call will be well complied with in this section of the country[.] More than three fourths of the citizens in the vicinity turned out to obey the call of their country. They continued in the field untill past the middle of this month (August) when most of the citizens returned having found nothing bearing the appearance of an enemy to combat

Aug 17th The officers and crew of Schooner Passaic which arrived here a few days since were this day arrested as prisoners of war[.] Documents were discovered against them bearing strong evidence that said schooner Passaic had been procured and dispatched by the Mexican consul and other friends of Santa Anna in New Orleans to effect the release of Santa Anna and his Suit Don [blank] the principal of the expedition was arrested by Maj W H Patton and Mr. John Scags and myself were placed as guard over



him commanded to see that he moved not nor destroyed any papers  
More of this anon

Our elections for president Vice president Senitors and Representatives takes place first Monday in November[.] Much man-oevering is taking place[.] Electioneering is carried to a great Length[.] Our congress meet the first Monday in October at Columbia

Aug 30th About 1 Oclock this morning I was taken with severe pain in the stomach and chest[.] I endured it, in a very restless manner, however, untill, daylight when I sent for a Physician who administered Opium and castor oil[.] By 11 O Clock I had quite recovered allthough the medicine which I had taken had had no effect

The election takes place on Monday[.] Scenes of drunkenness dissipation Gambling &c &c may be expected to their full extent and granduer

Congress the first of Texas commenced its Session on the first Monday in Oct[.] W C White lost his election W H Wharton Elected Senator for Brazoria Sam Houston President M B Lamar Vice President

Oct 24th left Columbia to visit my friends in the upper country[.] 25th met my friend Mr Thomas Cochrane between Damon's and Hodges and returned with him to Columbia[.] 26th Left Columbia in company with T Cochrane arrived at Mrs Powells old place[.] Encamped w[h]ere we found a family crow[d]ed into a small tent not capacious enough to shelter us[,] nigh[t] cold and rainey[.] procured some beef cooked eat spread our blankets and Lay down[.] soon were routed by the rain[.] 27th Daylight[.] arose saddled our horses and rode to A Nothingsons 10 miles took breakfast [and] proceeded to the late site of Old Sanfelipe

A few little shanties had been erected took refreshments spread our blankets before the fire and lay down for the night[.] Morning of the 28th having procured som[e] breakfast saddled our horses and got ready[.] we started and arrived at the residence of my friend T C the succeeding evening[.] Found his esteemed lady in good health retaining all her former hospitality and considerable propotion of her beauty

28th Visited Mr James Cochrane at the residence of Mr Foster

his father in law[.] The fair L A did not appear[.] Dined with Mr Cochrane[.] Evening returned to the house of friend T C[.] Learned that Old Mr Foster an old gray head of the appearance of 70 years was jealous that nearly all who spent a night under his roof had illicit intercourse with his Lady not much younger than himself and from all appearances and all I could learn as chaste and worthy a matron as lives

Oct [November] 3d Rode this day to Washington on the Brazos River. Took lodgings at Chance's Hotel

[Nov.] 4th Concluded to return to Mr T Cochranes w[h]ere we arrived in the evening[.] Mr Winburn who accompanied me to Washington and myself [went] to a vale[?] in the woods squirrel hunting[.] on our return found Miss L A at friend T. C's her Brothers[.] Myself and Winburn talk of forming a connection in business to Establish a wholesale and retail Grocery and provision Store[.] Returning from our hunt f[o]und Miss L A at her Brothers [Sic] Mr Winburn went in I remained sometime without[.] at last went in[.] some little common-place civilities passed[.] soon the young Mis arose bid all good evening and in company with her galant Mr Frank Foster mounted her horse and returned to her residence at Mr Fosters[.] Oct [November] 5 [I] intended to start for Home viz Marion[.] my horse not to be found[.] rode out to hunt him[.] After a long and unsuccessful hunt returned found Mrs Bracy the wife of J Cochrane and Mis Lucy Ann at her Brother T C residence[.] Had some conversation with all the ladies during about half an hour when they returned home—James Foster in company—[November] 6th my horse not yet found took the black horse belonging to friend Thomas [and] proceeded to Mr Fosters[.] Started [to] Mr J Cochrane after dinner and having taken leave of friend T C and his amiable Lady and bid adieu to all at Mr Fosters we took our departure for Columbia and Marion[.] arrived at Mr W M Perry's found there Mr Winburn who soon made ready and accompanied us[.] proceeded to the residence of Col G Edwards took lodgings[.] [November] 7th got Breakfast and started got as far as G Coles took lodgings[.] Mr Cochrane quite sick with fevre and ague[.] Soon as light morning of 8th Started [and] arrived in Columbia soon after sun set and at Marion soon after dark



Mr White for whom I had been doing business 9 month[s] informed me that he had sold all his interest in this place store goods and all[.] we commenced Invoicing the Stock and Mr White took his departure on the 10th for Quintanna[.] completed our Inventory about 16th

Oct [November] 19th Have just made arrangements to Enter into copartnership with Capt Andrew Moore of Sch[ooner] Julius Cezar and Mr James Cochrane to establish a wholesale and retail Grocery and provision business in the town of Marion[.] Made out a list of articles amounting to about \$5000 for which Capt Moore is to purchase in New Orleans[.] In compliance with my agreement which I had entered into with the before mentioned Gentlemen I made a contract with some workmen to get me out timber and build me a store on a lot which I had purchased of Jno R Jones in the town of Marion[.] During the absence of Capt Moore Capt J Cole of the firm of Cole & Cogley returned[.] I was then remaining with my young friend H J Howell who was in the Chamber of the store of Cole & Cogley and laying at the point of Death[.] He continued to grow worse and on the 25th Nov 1836 expired[.] I superintended the arrangements of the funeral[.] He was interred the next day[.] His funeral was attended by a large number of his friends and associates who deeply lamented the loss of a friend they loved and a companion worthy of their esteem

During the absence of Capt Moore various propositions to go into business had been made me but those of most importance Came one from Capt J Cole and the other from Mr David H Milburn

Capt Cole proposed to receive me as a full partner and did not care that I should put a dollar into the concern[.] The other Mr Milburn proposed that I should put in the lot that I was then building upon together with the building that I proposed to erect but both required that I should take entire charge of the business as neither of the above Gentlemen were themselves merchants[.] I informed both that I considered myself in honour bound to comply on my part with the agreement entered into with Messrs Moore and Cochrane should they not fail on their parts but in Case of failure on the part of these Gentlemen I should then feel myself at liberty to enter into any arrangements that I Chose[.] About

the 20th December Capt Moore returned without bringing any goods[.] I therefore concluded to sell out my building and proposed to Mr D H Milburn and Capt J Cole to go into a partnership of the three[.] This proposition was redily asented to and on 24th December The arrangements were gone into Capt Cole owing to his peculiar situation concluded to remain a silent partner

[1837]

It is now the 28th March and since the time of the purchase I have transacted the whole business of the concern without the least assistance but find my situation a very confined one[.] my health however is quite good[.] I had fondly flatered myself that during the present year I should have an opportunity of visiting the home of my Childhood and the relations and friends of my youth but as the season aproches the prospects become more unfavourable than before[.] That greatest pleasure I now hardly hope to enjoy during the present year

In May 1837 I visited New Orleans purchased about \$7000 worth of goods in about four days of all descriptions and had them Shipped having used the greatest possible dispatch in Order to get them in before [the] 1st of June when our revinew law took effect[.] Arrived in the Brazos on 28th May[.] Had during the mont of April last about 600\$ worth of goods captured on board Sch Julius Cezar By the Mexicans.

Visited my acquaintances in the upper Country and the town of Washington in August returned home to Marion and made a trip to Houston Same month. A few days after returning from Houston I was taken very ill a severe Fever ensued and I was much reduced and kept down for a long time[.] My health began gradually to improve and on the 17th of December I again left this place for New Orleans[.] Having started down the river in an oppen boat I was compleatly overpowered and when I overtook Sch Wm Bryan it was all I could do to get on board of her[.] I was again under the necessity of taking calomel and other strong Medicines[.] On my arrival in N Orleans I found myself much improved in health[.] By a little over exsertion however in my weak state I was again compelled to take my Bed and again to submit to a course of medicine[.] I soon began to recover and before I left N Orleans my health was perfectly restored[.] Having



spent about ten days in New Orleans we sailed and arrived in the Brazos on the 17 Dec

Met with Mr R M Forbs who furnished me a horse and I arrived at the residence of my partner opposite the town of Columbia on the Brazos on the evening of the 20 December

Much Gratitude is due from me to my friend and partner and his most Excelent Lady for their kind Care and attention to me during my Sickness in Sept last

Had I been with my dear mother Sister and brothers I could have scarcely expected or received more constant or carefull attention than was extended to me by these most amiable and hospitable and by me never to be forgotten Friends.

[1838]

1838 Feb 7th Throughout our country all is quiet but the times are exceedingly hard and money Verry Scarce. I hope in [the] course of the present year to be enable to steal sufficient time to visit my dear mother and connections in Massachusetts